



TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 1995

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Plus K2 skis and snowboards to be won, see page 14



Prison crisis as jails run out of space

eaked memo calls for action

IASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

Emergency measures are being drawn up to house new criminals because the nation's jails are at bursting point, the Prison Service has admitted in a confidential letter.

Jails in England and Wales are expected to be full by the end of the month, after reaching a record 52,444 population last Friday.

The Prison Service has called an urgent meeting in the next fortnight with the Prison Officers' Association to discuss the crisis. The problem has been exacerbated by the refusal of some police forces to use their cells for the overspill. The Prison Service also says in its correspondence that it cannot afford the £300-a-night cost to house a criminal with the police. Instead, the service proposes to move inmates into local prisons. which usually are used for people on remand.

It has already been disclosed that some prisoners near to the end of their sentences are being moved to open prisons, where security is far more lax, to alleviate the overcrowding. David Evans the POA

eral secretary, said last night that riots could break out soon, as the overcrowding is bound to get worse. Any prison disturbances in the run up to the general election could be extremely harmful to the Conservative Party, whose law-and-order policy could be damaged.

In a letter to Mr Evans at the POA, Alan Walker, the Prison Service's Director of Operations South, who is one of a board of 10 responsible for the day-today running of jails, says new analysis "indicates that there may be insufficient usable accommodation available during late November and early December, and between February

and June 1996". He said this was due to the unexpected surge in the prison population, now predicted to reach 52,700 by the end of the month and 53,700 by March.

to nay the £

certain parts of the country

have indicated that cells will be

unavailable due to their own

operational difficulties." In fact,

police charge up to £1,746 a

night to house a prisoner, the

costliest cells being in Sheffield.

Mr Walker says training pris-

ons and new local prisons will

have to take the brunt of the in-

fall directly to the Service.

"This is a high risk strategy that could lead to violent disturbances, including riots. It's quite possible that Mr Howard [the Home Secretary] may not be able to reach the next general election without a major disturbance breaking out." He Prison population said the rise in the population comes at a time when prisons face an 8 per cent cut in their

next year's budget. The number of inmates is expected to increase greatly fol-lowing Michael Howard's latest law-and-order package, an-nounced last month. Up to 20,000 more people could end up in prison under proposals to give life sentences for secondtime violent and sexual offenders and minimum sentences for third-time burglars and drug dealers. A Bill would also bring drastic cuts in sen-

year unless we suffer unplanned

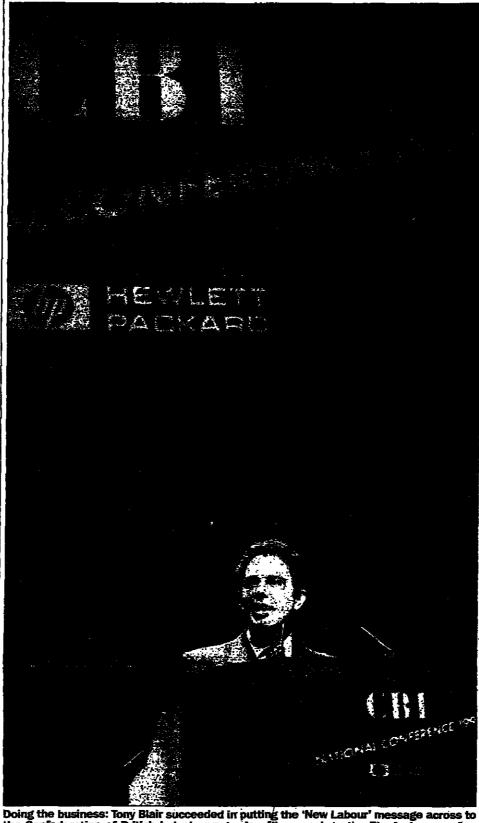
major accommodation losses".

David Evans said yesterday:

tence remission. Mr Walker adds that in the His announcement at the Conservative Party conference past, police cells have been used to take an overspill of immates, was attacked by prison and probation workers who said it "but the service can no longer make a tough situation up prisoner night average cost of using police cells as these costs workable. Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, criticised the move as interfering with the "Additionally, the police in power of the judiciary.

Mr Howard is visiting "supermax" prisons which house the most serious offenders in the United States. He intends to copy the scheme and set up a "Alcatraz" style jail in Britain. Mr Howard believes locking up more people for longer will act as a deterrent and ultimately reduce the level of crime.

Blair is industrialists' darling



the Confederation of British Industry yesterday. His speech to the Birmingham conference earned a 55-second ovation, while Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister was rewarded with just 43 seconds' applause. Réport, page 20

West 'admits killing 20 more victims'

WILL BENNETT

Frederick West claimed that he and his wife, Rosemary, had killed 20 more victims than those found at 25 Cromwell Street, bringing the total to more than 30, Winchester

Crown Court was told yesterday. The couple had been involved in the killings with several other men and some of the bodies had been buried at a farm, Mr West told Janet Leach, an observer who was appointed to sit in on his police

Mrs Leach, 39, was resuming her evidence at the murder trial of Mrs West, six days after collapsing at the court and being taken to a Winchester bospital, where she had been

receiving treatment ever since.

Mrs Leach claimed West told her that he and others were involved in killings, other than those at his Cromwell Street home, and the bodies were buried at an unnamed farm.

Looking pale and drawn, Mrs Leach, 39, who suffered a stroke last year, was pushed into the witness box in a wheelchair and was accompanied by Dr Christopher Gordon from the hospital throughout her evidence. The trial of Mrs West, 41,

who denies murdering 10 girls and young women whose remains were found at the Wests' house, 25 Cromwell Street. Gloucester, and at their previous home in the city, entered its seventh week yesterday. Last week Mrs Leach to

court that she was appointed an "appropriate adult" to sit in as an impartial observer at police interviews with Mr West after his arrest last year.

She said that she established a rapport with Mr West and that while detectives were not present he told her that he had made a pact with his wife by which be would take sole responsibility for the killings if

hey were caught. Mrs Leach wept and paused

frequently to take sips of water vesterday as she continued her account of her conversations

Mr West, who was charged with 12 murders, was found dead in his prison cell last New Year's Day.

Asked by Brian Leveson QC, prosecuting, how many more bodies Mr West was talking about, Mrs Leach replied: "An-

He did not tell her precisely where they were buried and said that Mrs West, another person and some coloured men had been involved in the killings.

Mrs Leach said that one of the victims was missing cafe waitress Mary Bastholm, 15, who vanished in January 1968.



An artists' impression of Janet Leach in court

She learned that Mary was closed farm. West, she said, told her that he picked Mary up at a bus stop. The jury has already heard that some of the alleged Cromwell Street victims were picked up at bus stops.

Mrs Leach admitted lying in her evidence last week, that she had not spoken to the press. And she agreed that she had been paid a £7.500 option for a book deal which could even-

tually be worth £100,000. Report, page 7

EU auditors fail to find £2bn missing cash

KATHERINE BUTLER

The European Union's spending watchdog will today refuse to certify the Community's 1994 accounts because more than £2hn - 4 per cent of the budget - cannot be properly accounted for. In total, more than £11bn, or a fifth of the £50bn spent by the EU in 1994, is open o question, the Court of Au-

ors will say. in a report to be unveiled to the European Parliament in Strasbourg today the court discloses that "serious and substantial errors" have been found in transactions underlying 4 per cent of last year's spending. It cannot youch for a further 14 per cent because auditing and accounting procedures were so frequently ignored or flouted. The revelations will be seized

the blame for lax financial management and inadequate control over taxpayers' money is placed at the door of national governments, not Brussels. "The errors and systems' weaknesses detected ... originate most often in bodies in the member-states responsible for the administration of community expenditure

programmes," it says.

The European Commission has traditionally claimed that no more than I per cent of the annual hudget is lost to fraud. While the Luxembourg-based auditors stop short of suggest ing they have uncovered fraud totalling 4 per cent of spending. they warn that a mix of fraud, waste, mismanagement and poor financial house-keeping is affecting a large part of the budget. Accounting errors do not every case represent a loss to

on by Eurosceptics but most of the taxpayer, the auditors stress, but they are evidence of inadequate financial administration in virtually every area of EU

spending. They call for urgent introduction of tighter coutrols and condemn the failure of both member-states and the Commission to heed past warnings. The court is complying for the first time with a Maastricht Treaty requirement to provide Parliament and the Council of Ministers with a statement of assurance on the legality of the annual accounts.

The court expresses particular concern at the absence of proper controls over payments to farmers and food traders at

A litary of mismanagement and ineffective or non-existent controls is reported in the fruitand-vegetable regime, where

the court complains about Greek. Spanish and Italian farmers being systematically overpaid for destruction of unwanted produce. But once again the finger is pointed at national authorities, who in many cases leave control "in the hands of the most interested

parties - the claimants". Poor control over pay-outs under regional development schemes also draws heavy criticism. Of the 270 projects to foster co-operation between the Republic and Northern Ireland under the Interreg programme, only 39 were found to have any cross-border content.

In Eastern Europe, meanwhile, where multi-billionpound schemes are being run to regenerate the economies of the former Soviet-bloc states, there is severe criticism of EU spending on apparently futile studies.

Five Americans die in Saudi blast

MICHAEL SHÉRIDAN Dipiomatic Editor

British companies and military personnel in Saudi Arabia were last night warned to increase their vigilance after a car-bomb attack on an American security installation in Riyadh killed six people and injured more

President Bill Clinton pledged to mount "an enormous effort" to find the perpetrajors and an FBI team was sent to the kingdom to assist Saudi intelligence in the hunt. It was the first terrorist attack singe 1991 in Saudi Arabia, the world's leading oil exporter and a key ally of the West.

/Five Americans, two of them military trainers, were among hose killed when a van packed. with explosives blew up yester-day morning outside a US-operated training facility for the Saudi National Guard. Western embassies tightened

security and high-profile British companies were told to "uprade their vigilance". Some 30,000 Britons live in the country; British Aerospace is a lead contractor in the £20bn oil-for-arms Al-Yamamah deal with the Saudi government.

Several opposition groups have threatened Western interests in Saudi Arabia. Earlier this year the Islamic Change Movement demanded that Western forces should leave the region or face attack.

But there has been no trouble since 1991, when a minibus carrying American military personnel was raked by gunfire. The Saudi ambassador to

London, Dr Ghazi Algosaibi, said yesterday that the bombing was "an isolated incident' which did not reflect on the country's stability. "All speculation about the perpetrators remains just that, speculation," Dr Algosaibi said.

Bomb's two targets, page 12

COMMENT

CBI is in a position to influence events in a way it has

not experienced since the days of beer, sandwiches and

Weather: South-west England and South Wales will have rainy

periods. Elsewhere it will be mainly dry, but with early mist and

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of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdo

IN BRIEF

Gazza probe Strathelyde police are to investigate incidents during Rangers' match against Ab-erdeen last Saturday. Television evidence appeared to show Paul Gascoigne headbutting one opponent and making contact with his elbow Page 28 with another.

Leah's prospects 'bleak' Doctors were in discussion with the parents of an 18-year-old girl in a coma after taking ecstasy over whether to switch off her life support machine. The prospects of Leah Betts surviving were said to be "very, very bleak" following her collapse after taking the

to be "historic".

Clinton's budget battle President Clinton raised the

stakes still further in the budget war with Congress by vowing a veto on a bill that would virtually ensure a partial government shutdown today. He declared war on the Republican plan to balance the budget in Page 13 Page 5 | seven years.

Commonwealth summit Robert Stephens dies

The roller-coaster Common-Sir Robert Stephens, one of the wealth summit in Auckland most talented and outrageous acwearin summit in Americans by tors of his generation, has died Commonwealth leaders that aged 64. His death comes days the decisions taken would prove after the publication of a reve-Page 11 latory autobiography. Page 9



Andrew Marr: New Labour, new moralism. Page 17 Ken Saro-Wiwa: His last interview. News Analysis: The world-wide responsibilities of the multinationals. Another View: Shell defends its activities. Page 16 David Lister's Diary. Leading article: "By occupying the middle ground the

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fog and only limited bright spells.

corporatism in the Seventies."

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Section Two, page 21

Bruton to urge talks on N Ireland

Chief Political Correspondent

COLIN BROWN

The vote by MPs to declare their

earnings could turn into a bo-

nanza for the normally stuffy

world of parliamentary solici-

One firm was already on the

look out for extra business yes-

terday from MPs who have to

lodge consultancy contracts

with the new parliamentary

commissioner. Sir Gordon

Downey.
Dozens of MPs yesterday re-

ceived letters from a firm of par-

liamentary solicitors offering

their advice in meeting the new

Dyson Bell Martin, who have

their offices in the shadow of

Big Ben at Westminster, wrote

to all MPs who have already de-

clared a post as a parliamentary

adviser in the register of mem-

"By reason of the nature of

our practice and having fol-

lowed the proceedings of the

Nolan Committee closely, we

believe that we are well placed

to advise members on the ap-

propriate form of agreements

and are happy to accept in-

structions for that purpose," the convene tomorrow for the new

Tory MP tells why he

switched to Labour

technical vote.

bers' interests.

JOHN RENTOUL

Political Correspondent

A Conservative MP has told a

constituent he voted in favour

of disclosing MPs' earnings last

week after he and four other

Tories initially voted against disclosure and then switched to

stituent: "I voted to make pub-

lic parliamentary earnings outside the parliamentary salary

by MPs. I agree with you that the public have a right to know

voted against disclosure of "fees

back a Labour amendment.

rules for declaring private earn-

The Irish Prime Minister will today seek to reach agreement with John Major to end the impasse over the stalled Northern freland peace process.

... John Bruton is expected to use contacts between officials in Dublin and London to speak to the Prime Minister by telephone to move the peace

Mr Bruton will urge Mr

target date for the start of allparty round-table talks within six weeks of the start of work by an international commission on decommissioning weapons.

Although the timetable by the Taoiseach will be regarded by London as unrealistic, both sides insisted the gap between the two governments was narrower than appeared from the weekend war of words between the two leaders over the timing of the next step.

Jonathan Bracken, the firm's

head of government relations,

said it was the first time a let-

ter drop to so many MPs had

been used. "What we are saying is if you have consultancy

arrangements, they now need a

written contract which has to be

guidance, there is likely to be a

large grey area surrounding the definition of the sums which

have to be declared. But Mr

Bracken said his firm was def-

initely not in the business of of-

fering help on how to dodge the

on how you get round the rules.

The suggestion of some of the

press that you might split con-

tracts into two parts, and get

paid £20,000 as a management

consultant and £2,000 as an MP

- we are not in that business at all." Mr Bracken said.

feat for John Major in the

earnings vote led to renewed

rumblings about his leadership

from Tory MPs angry that he had allowed the Nolan inquiry,

to get out of hand. The issue will

still be rumbling when MPs re-

Last week's humiliating de-

We are not offering advice

Until Sir Gordon has issued

MPs' earnings: Parliamentary lawyers

to cash in on registration of contracts

Nolan vote

spells boom

for solicitors

It was learned last night that Mr Major wrote to Mr Bruton at the weekend in a preliminary response to the Irish pressure for movement over the twintrack approach to the settlement. Mr Major has emphatically denied that it is Britain, which is responsible for

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Seci retary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday there was no rift between the two gov-ernments. Sir Patrick, speaking

in Larne, Co Antrim, said the obstacle to progress in the talks process was the paramilitaries' refusal to make even a start to the decommissioning

The Northern Ireland Secretary would like to see the ground laid for all-party talks by next February. Mr Bruton said the Irish government was ready to move now on the next steps towards all-party talks, but Dublin sources denied this was a call for the talks to begin now.

The Irish Foreign Minister, Dick Spring, has been pushin for a settlement to be reached through negotiation round the table. The twin-track approach by the two governments origi-nally envisaged a fresh round of bilateral or trilateral talks between the governments and the individual parties, including Sinn Fein, while the international commission on decom-

London wants the commis-

missioning weapons began its

sion to report back on progress before bringing Sinn Fem into all-party talks. Dublin now appears to believe the inter-party negotiations by Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland minister, have failed to move the process forward, and instead wants to short-cut the twin-track process by moving to all-party talks after the commission has

got under way.\
The difficulty remains the refusal of the IRA to begin decommissioning as weapons.

Dublin sources said Mr Bruton was keen to put pressure on Sinn Fein to make a compromise, by the two governments adopting a united approach. However, he has made clear he is seeking a compromise from the British government.

The Prime Minister accused the Irish government of bowing to Sinn Fein pressure when it pulled out of a planned summit between Mr Major and Mr Bruton to announce the twin-track

IN BRIEF Two charged with bus arson attack

Two men were charged vesterday with arson offences in connection with the firebombing of a bus used as a home by road protesters in Newbury, Berkshire at the weekend. They have been bailed and are due to appear before Newbury magistrates on 12 December.

The incendiary attack took place on Sunday morning as Icremy Middleton, 34, his pregnant girlfriend, Amanda Rothwell, 25, and their sixyear-old son slept in their bus in a layby at Reddings Copse, a small woodland on the route of the planned A34 bypass. Threats had previously been made against road protesters living in tree houses at the camp

Voluntary ID cards.

established there last month.

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, is to meet Tara Mukherjee, president of the European Migrants Forum which ise seeking equal rights for residents from outside the European Union - later this month to discuss the the group's support for the introduction of a voluntary identity card system. Mr Mukherjee said his group strongly opposed compulsory ID cards, but voluntary cards had proved helpful to thousands of migrants from Algeria, who were challenged about their identity by French police inthe crackdown against Algerian terrorism.

Boy,8, dies in fall

An eight-year-old boy died when he fell from a second-floor window at his home. John Thorne is thought to have been. playing when he fell from the bedroom window in Beaumont Leys, Leicester, Leicester Housing Association, which owns the property, is to investigate the accident.

Baby charge case adjourned

The case of a British woman charged with murdering her new-born baby was further adjourned by a New York court. Caroline Beale, 30, from Leytonstone, east London, had bail extended until 7 December. Miss Beale was arrested in September last year at Kennedy airport carrying the dead baby girl. apparently trying to smuggle the child's body on to a London-bound flight.

Guarded secret

Copies of Free As A Bird, the first new Beatles single for 25 years - to be released on 4 December - are currently under armed guard abroad, it was announced by Parlophone

Guinness boob

headquarters of drinks giant Guinness after they discovered a red-haired model they used in an advertisement to promote a new beer was just 16. The company apologised and insisted that if it had realised the model was under-age she would not. have been used. Lisa Berry from Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, was supplied by a Belfast model agency for the advert pro-moting Guinness's new product Kilkenny Red in a trade mag-

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BACK ISSUES Back sisues of the Independent are acadebic from Historic Newspapers, telephone 0938 400 455.



Salina Woodruff, of the auctioneers Colnaghi, with a rare portrait of Sir Winston Churchill in the 'siren' suit he wore at War Cabinet meetings. The picture, by Frank Salisbury, is to be sold by Tennants Auctioneers in Leyburn, North Yorkshire, later this month

Photograph: David Sandiso Photograph: David Sandison

Second complaint over BA checks Donna Cadogan, 44, a teacher, told staff they could exly, then wrote to Sir Colin Mar-

PETER VICTOR

surprisingly large margin of 51, did Mr Greenway and four other Tory MPs change sides to support Labour in a second, The other Tory MPs who cretly photocopied.

changed sides were: Nirj Deva, MP for Brentford and Isleworth; David Harris, who retires from his St Ives, Cornwall, seat Harry Greenway, Tory MP for Ealing North, has told a con-MP for Salisbury; and Nigel Evans, MP for Ribble Valley. Mr Evans said last night that

he had opposed disclosure but saw no point in voting against it once the first vote was lost. Mr Greenway told the Ealing

these things." Mr Greenway told the Ealing
But in the first key vote, he Gazette his first vote was a "technical hitch". He had not reand benefits" to the commis- alised the two Labour amendsioner for standards. Only after ments were linked, "These John Major was defeated, by the things are very complicated."

Another black British family has complained after being targeted by British Airways "ethnic passport" photocopying staff.

g curector, Bod Ayling, last Friday gave an unreserved apology to a British-born black probation officer after the *independent* revealed that his passport had been se-

The airline said covertly photocopying Tony Kelly's passport had been, "a mistake". Telling him this was done under US Federal Aviation rules, which required copies to be made of all "ethnic passports" had been another mistake, it added.

that BA targeted other black would be retained. After three British nationals for covert months, he received a letter passport photocopying. They from Denise Lawson, of BA's also confirm that the information gathered was kept for two

Black Briton Michelle Cadogan's passport was quietly taken away and copied without any explanation as she checked in for a BA flight to New York last December, It was only when her parents demanded to know where their 17-year-old daughter's passport had gone that they

Michelle's father, Dr Michael Cadogan, whote to BA demanding an explanation for the incident and asking how

customer relations department, stating: "The US Immigration admission procedures and require all airline (sic) to perform

thorough document checks prior to embarkation from the UK. The photocopying of passports and other travel documents forms part of these checks ... British Airways Birmingham have advised me that all copies are held on file for two months from the departure date and

then destroyed." Dr Cadogan, 47, a frequent BA business passenger and a regular traveller with his fami-

Minister aims to put a price on tranquillity

shall, asking why his daughter had been targeted.

In his reply, the BA Chairletter from the customer rela- sue were far-reaching: "Sir Colanswered in detail the five points you raised about the photocopying of passports belonging to passengers checking in at Birmingham to travel to New York. There is nothing I can add to what has been said already."

Last July, as Michelle Cadogan was leaving Britain to travel again to New York for a holiday, BA staff again tried to take away her passport. This time, her mother put her foot

amine the passport in front of In his reply, the BA Chair-man stated that he had seen the said the ramifications of the isthe points in my husband's letter. They were prepared to defend it right up to the top. They have apologised to Tony Kelly. I would like to hear what they have to say to us."

BA said Sir Colin's letter to the Cadogans had been based on the same inaccurate information as in the Kelly case: "We have acted to correct that now." A spokesman said that since the Independent revelations, procedures had been revised.

particular aspects of damage. Lit-

mental damage of road schemes

is currently taken account of in

the cost-benefit analysis, which

environmentalists have argued

skews the equation in favour of

Stephen Joseph, of Transport

building schemes.

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Ian Hargreaves resigns as 'Independent' editor

Mr Hargreaves has been editor of the Independent since Independent is in good shape August 1994 and during his and we will begin immediately tenure circulation has improved to a peak of 300,000 recorded take the newspaper to the next in June of this year. Mr Liam Healy, chairman of ment.

Ian Hargreaves resigned as editor of the Independent yester—"We are all grateful to Ian for his stewardship of the title and wish him well for the future. The to seek a replacement editor to exciting stage in its develop-

Transport Correspondent What is the value of fresh air or the price of peace and quiet? For the first time, research is being undertaken to try to assess the value of the elusive concept of quality of life. Until now, no attempt has

been made to assess the value of the environmental impact of transport but yesterday the Secretary of State for Transport, Sir-George Young, launched re-search to try for the first time to put a precise price on environmental damage as it affects

study will try to calculate, for example, what an extra decibel of noise or a measurable increase in air pollution is worth. Previ-ously, the department has shied away from such work knowing that it would be a major weapon for opponents of road schemes

at public inquiries.
In a review of existing work in this field, the department found that some values had already been suggested for certain aspects of pollution.

For example, researchers suggested that an extra decibel of noise in a year should be costed at between £5.50 and £10 per people near road schemes. The year. This is worked out from

calculations of house prices on noisy streets compared with those on quiet streets nearby, which have suggested that there might be a 0.74 per cent fall in price per decibel increase in noise. Estate agents already use a rule-of-thumb system in subtracting a percentage of their price estimate for homes on busy roads.

The use of such information could have a substantial impact on road schemes, and might make the difference between schemes proceeding or being

Another survey suggests that a reduction in particulates, the

engines, especially diesels, by one microgram per cubic metre should be costed at between £5.75 and £17.25 per year. Annual average levels in the United Kingdom are of 20-30 micrograms per cubic metre in large urban areas.
Other factors which it might

tiny specks of dust emitted by

be possible to assess range from global warming and use of land for roadbuilding to potential risks of oil spillage, aesthetic damage to landscape and even the killing of wild animals.

Sir George endorsed the approach of the work but said he could not, as yet, agree with the

2000, the group supporting pub-lic transport, said the timing of the research was interesting: "The Government is just about to make massive cuts in the roads programme and these sort of calculations will make roadbuilding look even less attractive from an economic point of view."

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Water crisis: Public inquiry to go ahead today with embattled Yorkshire company applying for an emergency drought order

Rain dampens the threat of cuts to homes

NICHOLAS SCHOON **Environment Correspondent**

Rain over the weekend has averted the threat of water cuts for 600,000 people in West Yorkshire for the time being. Yorkshire Water said yesterday.

But a public inquiry will go ahead today at which the embattled company will ask for an emergency drought order, giving it powers to cut off households in Halifax and Huddersfield for 24 hours in every 48.

Yorkshire Water's woes were added to yesterday when it was revealed that it was one of three of the hig 10 water companies being investigated by the industry regulator.

Ian Byatt, director-general of the Office of Water Services (Ofwat), has questioned Yorkshire, South West and North West about alleged failures to meet agreed standards.

Two-thirds of Yorkshire's 4.5 million customers are now covered by hosepipe hans - largely ineffectual now that garden watering has stopped. About 1.5 million, one-third, are living under more severe restrictions granted by earlier drought orders from the Government. These restrict inessential uses of water such as car washing.

But the gravest threat is to the residents of the Kirklees and Calderdale districts of West Yorkshire, covering Huddersfield and Halifax respectively. The area is heavily dependent on upland reservoirs with limited storage capacity. In March, these were full, but an extremely dry summer has been followed by an exceptionally dry autumn,

The company is hoping that, following the public inquiry, it will get permission to cut them off zones in these areas 24 hours at a time. It had been expected to start the cuts next week if the emergency drought order is granted. Hospitals would be exempt, while nursing homes would be served by

bowsers during the cut-offs. Yorkshire Water said yesterday that following some rain at the weekend the rota cuts will not be needed until 1 December at the earliest. Continuous heavy rain is needed to start fill- lavatories. "They won't have to ing the reservoirs serving the flush after every child," Clem two areas, which are only 11 per Rushworth, of Calderdale edcent full. Yorkshire Water has ucation authority, said. "It's a stockpiled half a million two-

from nearby Buxton, intended for the elderly, infirm and other groups who would be hardest hit by the cuts.

But once the cuts begin, it will need much more bottled water; it intends to supply up to 1 million litres a week. The bottled water is not suitable for making up baby's milk from formula; that should be boiled beforehand.

Leaflets are being distributed warning people that it will be essential to boil all water used for drinking and food preparation if the cuts begin because tap water purity could no longer be guaranteed. Public health officials have said there is a threat of widespread dysentery and food poisoning unless people

follow the hygiene guidelines. A fleet of 200 road tankers is bringing water - 25,000 tons a day - from east Yorkshire, which has no drought, to Hal-ifax and Huddersfield. Temporary pumping stations and pipelines have been installed, and in some places the usual flow along large mains has been reversed.

Yorkshire has a grid system to distribute water round the region, but it is not designed to move water from the higher and usually much wetter west to the dry east. The company is also planning another tankering opcration bringing water from Northumbria to Leeds, whose

reservoirs are also at low level. The rota cuts would be unprecedented in England, Wales or Scotland, although a few thousand people around Cookstown in Northern Ireland had overnight water cuts from early August to early October due to the drought.

For several months York-shire Water has been appealing to people to cut their water use by a quarter and now uses television advertisements. It says it is deeply disappointed with the public's response to the gathering crisis; at most consumption has been reduced by one-tenth.

During the cuts the company intends to pay £3-an-hour for an emergency squad of super-visors and school cleaners who will use buckets to flush school question of being there and us-



Bottles banked: Pupils at St Joseph's Junior School in Halifax, West Yorkshire, where emergency rations of bottled water have been delivered Photograph: Joan Russell/Guzelian

Hose pipe bans plus inessential use restrictions

Huddersfield

supplied by

Loftsome Bridge

treatment works,

Regulator demands answers on standards

NICHOLAS SCHOON

Three of the big 10 water companies are now composing a reply to one of the most awkward letters they have ever received
- a missive from industry regulator Ian Byatt suggesting, in polite and formal language, that they have been cheating their customers.

He believes he has compiled information which suggests that they have not delivered levels of service, tapwater purity, leakage control and sewage clean-ups which they agreed to in return for being allowed to rise prices much faster than the rate of inflation.

Mr Byatt, director-general of the Office of Water Services (Ofwat), has been scutinising a mass of facts provided this summer by all of the English and Welsh water companies, the National Rivers Authority (the watchdog) and the Department of the Environment's Drinking

Water Inspectorate. North West Water, Yorkshire Water and South West Water which take the form of long annexes to his probing letters which have been leaked. They cover a broad range of alleged shortcomings in improving inland and coastal sewage works, raising purity standards for drinking water and tackling low pressure

problems. Anthony Goldstone, chairman of the Ofwat's North West customer service committee, said that the company's handling of the drought had been "haphazard" and left a lot to be desired.

The letter is really saying have they complied with all quality standards? Have they had the service standards Ofwat demands of them? Have they supmonths where there have been

difficulties?" he said. Yorkshire Water is told in its He now has questions for letter that it appears to have missed chances to improve its water supplies and storage in the years before this summer's drought. It has one of the highest leakage rates in the country, and has just announced that it plans to cut leakage from 26 to

24 per cent by 1998. The letters follow the introduction this year of a new annual scrutiny by Ófwat. The regulator refused to comment on their contents, saying they were confi-dential at this stage. "We have to give them the chance to reply at length to what we're raising," a spokeswoman said.

Yorkshire Water said: "Mr Byatt has not yet reached any conclusions." It said it would cooperate fully, but was disputing "a large amount" of what the reg-

Ageing robbers jailed for 'vicious' shooting of guard

with links to the Kray and Richardson gangs were given long jail sentences vesterday for a robbery in which a security guard was deliberately shot.

At an age when the Recorder of London. Sir Lawrence Verney, said most people were beginning or contemplating retirement. Christopher Bulbrook, 60, and Anthony Keegan, 61, are starting jail sentences of 15 and 18 years respectively.

Their victim, 44-year-old Andrew Wallis, had come to the Old Bailey to see them sentenced as part of his therapy but was unable to face the ordeal and had to leave.

The court was told he still suffers pain from where Keegan blasted him in the leg with a sawn-off shotgun. He can only work at desk jobs, will never be able to work

needs counselling.

A witness to the robbery and shooting, Alice Whitlock, 78, was so disgusted by Keegan's gratuitous violence in shooting Mr Willis, a Security Express guard - even though he offered no resistance - "that she hit the gunman with her handbag and called him a bastard", said John

Kelsey Fry, for the prosecution. Keegan pushed her out of the way and ran to a getaway car driven by Bulbrook. Seconds later it was rammed by police officers who had been watching them for several days.

Inside the car were two sawnoff shotguns and over £10,000 from the robbery outside an Iceland food store in Bermondsey, east London.

As the grey-haired pair were led to the cells, Detective Sergeant John Swinfield of the Flying Squad said: "They are

again as a security guard and still both highly dangerous individuals. As a result of their incarceration a lot of security guards out there are safer. They are vicious, armed career robbers."

Reservoirs serving Halitax 11% follon average. Rainfall into their catchinent from March 1 to November 7

51% of long-term average

In Halifax, 60,000 homes

water cut-offs for 24 hours

Huddersfield has the more

isolated water storage

system of the two.

and in Huddersfield,

140,000 homes facing

in every 48, as early as

December 1.

He said he was glad the judge had rejected "the smokescreen they attempted to put up" by implying they were lured into the robbery by an insider. DS Swinfield said this attempt to implicate Mr Willis was a total fabrication and added insult to the injuries he suffered.

The men admitted robbery and firearms offences and Keegan also admitted wounding. A charge against Bulbrook's 58year-old wife, June, of conspiracy to rob - which she denied was dropped. Police saw her hand over to her husband a red holdall allegedly containing the sawn off shotguns. But Bulbrook told police: "I made her do it, she had no choice, she is

Squad officers watching Bulbrook's home in Bermondsey saw Keegan - on the run from a five-year drug sentence - visit several times. They followed as the pair reconnoitred the

Rainfall into their catchment from March 1 to November 7 46% of long-term average

Shortage measures: A county's water crisis

Halifax

tvoire serving Hudderstiek 12.1% full on average

nearby shopping centre.

In November last year Keegan struck as Mr Willis left the Iceland store after collecting the cash. He pushed aside Mrs Whitlock and her husband, spun the guard around, grabbed the bag and then deliberately and without provocation shot

him in the leg.
The pair, both with similar robbery convictions and a crime history dating back to the 1950s, were told by the judge he re-jected their assertions an insider was involved and the gunshot was intended only as a warning. He said they knew the guns were loaded and to be used if they thought fit.

Porn TV channel | Deadline nears for Naval College bids

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

to be banned

The Government is set to ban the pornographic satellite chan-nel TV Erotica from British screens, Virginia Bottomley. the Secretary of State for Her-

itage, said yesterday. The Swedish-based station. which advertises itself as Europe's hottest adult movie channel", shows films featuring

uninhibited sex. People in Britain with certain satellite dishes can view the channel - which is beamed from the Eutelsat satellite - if they pay £139 for an appropri-

ate smart card. Mrs Bottomicy told the Today programme on Radio 4 that action to ban the channel

was in hand. Twe been very concerned about that channel and have been taking steps. I'll be able to make further announcements

before long," she said. going out which is damaging to children's health and well being then there are necessary pow-ers that need to be taken." The official announcement is expected to be made within the next fortnight.

The Government can effectively ban TV Erotica from British screens by making it an offence to sell the smart cards in Britain and to advertise or publish information about the

Similar action was taken in 1993 to ban the pornographic station Red Hot Dutch from Britain, but viewers can still see the channel by purchasing the smart card on the continent.

The order proscribing Red Hot Dutch by the British government put the station out of business, as it lost vast sums of money when it appealed to the European courts about the ban. Similar stations, such as TV

69, have started broadcasting from the continent but have made a deliberate decision not When there is material to market their smartcards or

IAN MacKINNON

Agents handling the sale of the lease for the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, one of Britain's architectural masterpieces, anticipate a flurry of bids minutes before the deadline at noon tomorrow.

Yet as the countdown entered its final hours yesterday, not one sealed bid had been received. despite expressions of interest in the Grade I listed building on the Thames from more than 450 organisations.

However, Knight Frank & Rutley, the estate agents co-ordinating the sale of the 150year lease for the Ministry of Defence, said proposals for large properties invariably arrived right at the last moment as organisations tended to use all the available time.

The sale of the Sir Christopher Wren-designed complex, which will have stringent conditions attached, has provoked outrage in some circles from those who fear the new tenants

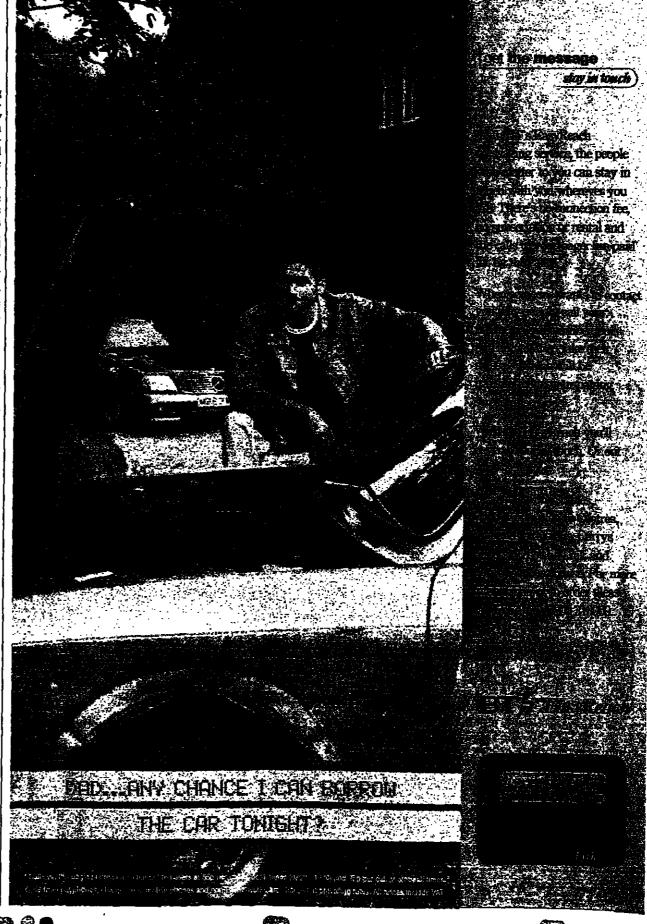
may not be in keeping with its

In response, though, the Government has always been at pains to point out that the successful proposal, not to be announced for some months, "will be sympathetic to the character For this reason and the sheer

scale of the site, Richard Haynes, of Knight Frank & Rutley, predicted that the num-ber of bids would ultimately not be very large. Primary contenders are the

National Maritime Museum and the University of Greenwich, which propose transforming Greenwich into Britain's foremost Baroque site which would host the millennium celebrations.

But bids are also expected from other educational organisations in Britain and abroad. "There has been some other interest but the serious interest that will result in a bid is almost exclusively educational," said



Violence on the streets a big problem in 'little England'

Trouble by the Thames: Henley counts cost after teenagers go on rampage

JAMES CUSICK

Henley-on-Thames, the river-side "little England" town. redolent of rowing, regattas. straw boaters and plenty of Pimms, is struggling with a new addition to its fourist attractions.

For the second time this year, the supposedly genteel image of the town has been destroyed by Saturday night street violence. Over the weekend, 10 youths were arrested after confrontations with local police armed with riot batons and reinferced by dog handlers.

Now the town is anxiously awaiting this week's edition of its own local newspaper. "I am sure we're about to become the Brixton of sleepy Thames Valley," said one local shopkeeper. But while the town is divided over whether it has suffered a full-scale street riot or the aftermath of an alcohol and drugs-induced teenage rampage, the youths on the streets vesterday were not looking forward to this weekend.

Outside the Three Turs pub, the fashionable watering hole that attracts teenagers from as far afield as Reading, a huddle of youths held their own verbal inquiry into what happened last weekend. They blame the

Inspector Ali Dizaei blamed the town's "little Jeremys and little Henrys" who he claimed pelted his police station with stones, shouted racial abuse, police Land Rover window - all during two hours of midnight maybem. A similar rampage occurred earlier this year, short-ly after the heavy policing for the July Royal Regatta had been reduced.

Arriving in Henley almost a year ago, the Inspector omised a clampdown on a local drugs and drink problem identified as out of control. He

promised increased policing.
The youths outside the Tims' yesterday reacted by saying: The Old Bill were totally out of order." One, describing Sat-



Keeping the peace: A police officer on patrol in Henley-on-Thames. Youths in the town complain of provocation

urday, said: "They hit people with riot batons. Dogs went for us. Eventually there was fighting on every street corner and in the car park. That's not usu-

everything will now go quiet for a while or the trouble will worsen this weekend. "People might now come here thinking 'let's go there and do some damage"," Around Hart Street, Bell

ties damaged in the "rioting" were divided over what had happened. Asquiths teddy bear shop had one of its period win-

stolen. The shop, according to assistant Catherine Saker, has been damaged before during similar trouble. "However, two bears stolen is not gang war-fare," she said. "It is getting worse here, but it's no worse Photograph: Edward Sykes

than any other similar place in

College lecturer Richard Paines, who teaches at the large sixth form college in Henley, said: "The problem here is that in Henley there is little entertainment for young people,

apart from the pubs. Sarah Gregory, who owns a gift shop on Bell Street, de-scribed the episode in terms of inconvenience, rather than terror. But she said some of the elderly residents nearby regularly have their doors kicked in. with some "too terrified" to leave their homes on Friday and

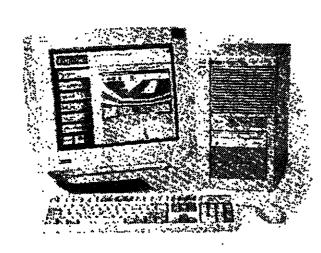
Saturday nights.
Publicans along Hart Street,
leading to the town hall and the police station, played down last weekend's trouble. An employee at the Catherine Wheel, which employs weekend bouncers, dismissed tales of riots with "nothing happened really".

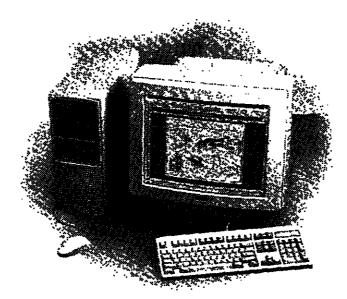
Others, awaiting this weekend, disagree. One shop owner, who asked not to be named, said: "Like many places in Britain you need only scratch the surface and the image goes." The Royal Regatta was only one week in the year. "The rest of the time we have to deal with what the rest of the country is dealing with.

Eleven youths were arrested in the town of Market Drayton in Shropshire on Sunday night after gang fighting.

det

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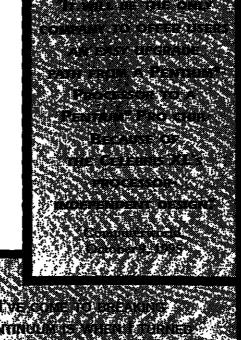


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Hip fracture patients 'get sub-standard treatment'

LIZ HUNT lealth Editor

> Thousands of elderly people who break their hips receive sub-standard care, with long delays before treatment from inexperienced surgeons and poor pain control, according to

The Audit Commission ssessed the care provided by for elderly patients with hip fractures in nine hospitals across the country, and found patients' recovery was hindered by poor planning and co-ordination of heir care, pre- and post-operatively, and in rehabilitation.

Each year, 57,000 people break their hips and most disnci general hospitals Will see. on average, one patient a day with this condition. Most will be over 65 and three-quarters are over 75. With an ageing population, the number of fractures will double in 20 years if current trends continue. The cost to the health service of caring for the

patients is about £250m a year. Andrew Foster, Controller of the Audit Commission, said: "Although there are some examples of good practice. there are more things going wrong at every stage [in hip fracture) than we've found in pre-

vious studies for similar things." He said it was not a failure of individual managers, doctors, nurses or social workers, but a failure to adopt a "coherent strategy" for dealing with hip fracture, and to view the condition from the patients' point of view. Initially, many patients were having to wait in A&E departments for up to 10 hours before admission to a ward. Almost 20 per cent of patients

waited for more than five hours. David Browning, associate director of the commission, said: "These are frail, elderly women in most cases, probably in shock. They are lying immobile on hard trolleys and there is a danger of pressure sores."

Although orthopaedic surgeons agree that the best outcome of a hip fracture repair is the result of prompt surgery, up £10.00.

to 40 per cent wait two to three days, often going without food in case surgery is scheduled at short notice - and receiving less than optimum attention to pain control. The main problems are lack of theatre time and shortage of orthopaedic surgeons, according to the report.

Another worrying trend was the number of junior surgeons and anaesthetists who carried out the surgery, Mr Foster said. "One in 10 operations were carried out by an unsupervised SHO [senior house officer] surgeon and anaesthetist together. It is a serious operation involving big bolts being pushed through frail, crumbly bones. It

needs to be done well." for discharge further problems were identified largely because female: 90 per cent of them are of failure to plan discharge early enough, and co-ordinate the various services - nursing care, physiotherapy, and social services. The report concludes with examples of best practice, and recommends that purchasing authorities (health authorities, GP fundholders etc) draw up detailed contracts of minimum expectations for the care and management of hip

fracture patients by hospitals. Mr Foster said comprehensive and well-co-ordinated care was needed to help elderly patients recover after hip operations, and in many cases their needs were not adequately met. He urged hospital managers to "take the lead in establishing robust arrangements for plan-

elderly people need". Harriet Harman, Labour's health spokeswoman, said the improvements in care that the report recommends are made harder to achieve in a frag-mented, competitive NHS. "Their call is for more planning and more co-operation in order to improve their care of these vulnerable patients. The Govemment is driving the NHS in

the opposite direction."

United They Suand, Co-ordinating Care for Elderly Patients with Hip Fractures, HMSO;

Saturday night live with the police force

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

ITV will broadcast an extraordinary two-hour programme on Saturday night showing the police in action around Britain - arresting suspects, breathalysing drivers and crack-

ing down on prostitution. Police Action Live is to be made by ITN, which says the programme will offer an unedited glimpse of policing as it happens" and claims it will be the first live documentary of the

po<u>lí</u>ce in action. The one-off special will be anchored by the ITN newscaster Dermot Murnaghan and will show Fiona Foster, presenter of Carlton's London Tonight local news programme, reporting from Scotland Yard.

The programme makers will

not inform the members of the public involved that they are beng filmed and in many cases they will be unaware that footage is being transmitted

live to millions of viewers. To ensure this, reporting teams will be provided with cameras the size of lipsticks and with specially equipped cars with larger cameras fitted to the roof and dashhoard.

Footage will switch between a vice patrol in Manchester, a foot patrol in Northumbria, a policewoman answering 999 calls at Scotland Yard, and the custody suite at Charing Cross police station in central London.

Other mobile units will based in Hampshire, the North-east, Manchester and London but ITN will not specify the locations to avoid attracting crowds of camera-happy viewers.

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Parents may cut ecstasy girl's life-support

IAN Mackinnon and JASON BENNETTO

The parents of an 18-year-old girl who is in a coma after taking eestasy were in discussion with doctors last night over whether to to switch off her lifesupport machine.

The prospects of Leah Betts surviving were said to be "very, very bleak" following her collapse after taking the tablet on Saturday night during her 18th birthday party at her home.

Doctors at the Broomfield Hospital, in Chelmsford, Essex, where she is being treated, sent samples to counterparts at Guy's in London to try to discover what caused Leah's violent reaction.

Police were still hunting the main supplier fearing a contaminated batch of the drug, but released four students - two

men, two women - on bail. Leah, studying for A-levels at Basildon College, Essex, bought the £10 tablets in the town on Saturday.

Her parents, who both do work as drugs advisers, had thrown a party for her birthday at their home in Latchingdon, near Maldon, Essex, but were there to ensure there was no trouble or drug-taking.

Leah's collapsed just after midnight shortly after taking the pill - which bore an imprint of an apple - and was resuscitat-



"I have got anger, hate, and

I have got love for my daugh-

ter," he said. "I have got anger

for the people who bought the

drugs and hate for the bastard

who supplied them," he said.

Police in Essex offered an

amnesty to other teenagers who

may have bought the same

ed by her step-mother, a nurse, until paramedics arrived.

Yesterday, Dr John Durkan, a consultant anaesthetist, said the longer her condition remained the same the less likely were her chances of recovering. There is a significant chance she will not survive. There is no real improvement since she came in," he said.

Her father, Paul Betts, 49, a former police inspector in the drugs squad who now lectures in schools, said he was still trying to come to terms with what

drugs in the hope that it would lead to the supplier. However, Detective Chief

Inspector Brian Storey said that a friend of Leah's, also 18, had taken a pill bought at the same time and had not shown any reaction.

Up to a million people are estimated to take ecstasy every week, but the danger the tablets pose is still hotly contested.

Of the more than 50 recorded deaths blamed on the drug the majority of fatalities were due to dehydration and heat exhaustion. The drug allows party-goers to dance for hours.

Still in dispute is whether adulterated ecstasy is responsible for the rest of the deaths or if it is a rare reaction to the pure form of the drug, MDMA. Dealers use substances, including amphetamine and brick dust, to "pad out" ecstasy.

An inquest tomorrow into the death in Blackpool in Septem-ber of Daniel Ashton, 17, is expected to hear that he died from either a bad reaction to the ecstasy or an overdose of am-



Judges to rule on knife injury to unborn child

Three Court of Appeal judges yesterday began considering a complex legal case involving the death of a four-month-old baby girl born prematurely because of knife wounds suffered by her

mother. The judges, headed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, have been asked to rule that a man who stabbed his pregnant girlfriend committed either murder or manslaughter of their child, even though the baby was not yet a legally recog-nised "person in being" at the

time of the wounding The case, referred to the court by the Attorney General, man's acquittal of murder on the directions of a trial judge, raises important issues over how the law should approach the death or disablement of children as a result of pre-natal injury. It is being watched keenly by criminal lawyers and doctors

involved in abortion practice. Although the hearing centres on the application of the criminal law to the unlawful use of violence to the unborn child or its mother, it is seen as having implications for the medical profession in what is a "grey" area. Doctors are divided over the ethical problems arising from late abortions which result in delivery of living foetuses.

The woman victim in the case was stabbed with a kitchen knife during a drunken row and gave birth three months prematurely. Her baby daughter survived for 121 days, under-

At the man's trial in 1993, Mr Justice Holland rule that, according to legal precedent, he could not be convicted of mur-

Robert Smith QC, for the Atalive, lived independently of its mother and then died as a result of intentional injury caused while it was still in the womb. It mattered not if the only on the mother - the offence was still made out by the doc-

the time was no bar to success-Mrs Justice Steel. It was well esindependent of its mother was not murder or manslaughter. But once a child was born alive, plied - and the lapse of time between the violent act and the

going surgery to repair the injuries she suffered in the womb. She died from the consequences of premature birth.

der in the absence of specific malice against the unborn foetus. The man, who was earlier sentenced to four years in jail for wounding the mother, has the right to remain anonymous in the two-day appeal hearing, the outcome of which cannot affect his acquittal. torney General, contended that

intention was to inflict injury trine of "transferred malice". The fact that the foetus was not legally a person in being at ful prosecution, Mr Smith told Lord Taylor, Mr Justice Kay and tablished law that to kill a child before it had an existence

actual death was irrelevant. The case continues today.

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Blockade threat to nuclear plant

JOHN ARLIDGE Scotland Correspondent

Anti-nuclear activists are to blockade the troubled Dounreay nuclear rescarch establishment in Caithness in an effort to prevent the repro-cessing of up to 20,000 radioactive spent fuel rods.

Managers at Dounreay have unveiled plans to reprocess more than 1,500 fuel rods each year for the next 10 years. The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, which runs the plant, has already agreed to recycle 80 tons of spent sodium from reactors on the Continent and is set to win a multi-million pound

> ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE MARE ST. LONDON E8 4SA.

(Charity Ref. No. 231323) "Her itoal days with you were

Australia. The plant is also bidding for United States contracts worth more than £100m. A consignment of 52 US-made rods from a German nuclear reactor arrived at Dounreay last month. Bosses at the plant argue that reprocessing will generate

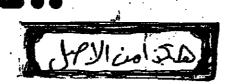
of radioactive fuel rods from

£10m a year for the Caithness needed employment. A Dounreay spokesman said the spent fuel elements posed no threat to the public during transport or storage. Reprocessing would generate "only a tiny amount" of additional radiation and all waste products would be returned to the country of origin.

But UKAEA's bid for the work comes at a sensitive time. Dounreay is still recling from a series of revelations, highlighted in the Independent, that poor safety procedures have led to harmful radioactive leaks. "Hot" metal fragments have been discovered at the plant and on nearby beaches in recent months,

At the same time, two reports from government pollution watchdogs have accused managers of covering up a radioactive explosion at the site in 1977.

Critics of Dounreay say its poor safety record means it cannot be trusted to reprocess the spent fuel rods. Activists are planning to blockade the plant as part of a campaign to force managers to ahandon the work.



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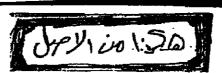
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Cromwell Street trial: Court hears sensational testimony from witness who admits she lied over £100,000 newspaper deal

Fred West 'confessed to 20 more killings'

WILL BENNETT

Frederick West claimed that he and his wife, Rosemary, killed another 20 young women, in addition to those they were charged with murdering, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday - by a witness who ad-

mitted to agreeing a £100,000 newspaper deal for her story.
The couple had been involved in the killings with several other men and some of the bodies had been buried at a farm, Mr West told Mrs Janet Leach, an observer appointed to sit in on his police interviews.

Mrs Leach was resuming her evidence in the trial of Mrs West on 10 murder charges, six days after collapsing during an adjournment and being taken to hospital in Winchester.

Yesterday, looking pale and drawn, she was pushed into the witness box in a wheelchair. She was accompanied throughout her evidence by Dr Christopher Gordon, from the Royal Hamp-shire County Hospital, where she had been treated since her

Mrs Leach, who suffered a stroke last year, admitted yesterday that she had lied last week about contacts with the media and said that she had verbally agreed a £100,000 deal

with Mirror Group Newspapers. The trial of Mrs West, 41, who denies the murders of 10 girls and young women whose remains were found at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and at the Wests' previous home in the city, entered its seventh week vesterday.

Last week Mrs Leach, 39, told the court she had been appointed as an "appropriate adult" to sit in as an impartial observer at police interviews with Mr West, who was found dead in his prison cell on New Year's Day.

She said she had built up a rapport with Mr West and that he told her that he had made a pact with his wife by which he person had killed Anne McFall,

would take sole responsibility

for the killings.
Yesterday, Mrs Leach was asked by Brian Leveson QC, prosecuting, about other mur-ders mentioned by Mr West. She said he told her that the remains of some girls had been buricd at a farm.

Mr Leveson asked: "Did you ever get to the bottom of these

Mrs Leach replied: "Only as to what happened to them and how many but he did not give me specific areas." Mr Leveson asked: "How

many people was he talking about?" Mrs Leach replied: "Anoth-

Mr Leveson asked if Mr West had revealed who else was involved in the killings. Mrs Leach said he had told her that Mrs West, another person, and some coloured men had taken

Mr Leveson said: "Are you in the position to evaluate or judge whether whatever he said to you was true or not?"

Mrs Leach replied: "No." Questioned by Richard Ferguson QC, defending, Mrs Leach said Mr West had told her that he knew Mary Bastholm, who disappeared in Gloucester in 1968. He said he picked up the 15-year-old at a

Mr Ferguson asked: "Did you ask him about where Mary Bastholm was? Did you gather that she was dead?

Mrs Leach replied: "Yes." Mr Ferguson said: "Did you ask him where her remains

Mrs Leach replied: "He said

that they were on a farm." She said Mr West told her that the victims found at 25 Cronwell Street had died by ac-

cident and that someone else had brought their bodies back He also told her that his

whose remains were found near friend who wanted to write a his bome village of Much book. Mrs Leach agreed that Marcle, Herefordshire. Mr West was charged with her

murder, but Mrs West is not. She admitted that she knew that Mr West was telling her one thing and the police another. Mr Ferguson said: "You did nothing about it." Mrs Leach

replied: "I couldn't." Mr Ferguson asked: "Why was he [Mr West] prepared to take responsibility for these killings?"

Mrs Leach replied: "Because would do anything for Rose." Mrs Leach said that after she ceased to be an observer at his interviews, she stayed in touch with Mr West because he had told her about the other bodies

and she wanted to find out where they were. Mr Ferguson asked her about her evidence last week that she had not sold her story or spoken to the media. He said that last year the Daily Mirror had

who said she was helping a

book. Mrs Leach agreed that she had made the call.

Mr Ferguson then read out a letter, from Mirror Group Newspapers, offering £7,500

for the rights to her story. Mrs Leach agreed that in August MGN had provided a chalet in Somerset for herself and her family and in September she had personally received £5,000 from the Mirror.

Mr Ferguson then put it to her that she had had a meeting with three MGN representatives. "At that meeting you verbally agreed to accept an offer of £100,000 for the exclusive

rights to your story."

Mrs Leach replied: "I have not signed anything. Mr Ferguson said: "Did you

accept that offer?" Mrs Leach replied: "Yes." Mr Ferguson said: "You were also asked if you had spoken to the press by Mr Leveson. That just wasn't true was it?" been telephoned by a woman

Mrs Leach said: "No." The trial continues today.





DAILY POEM

Luton versus Middlesbrough

By John Hegley

Five whole goals to Luton Town and Middlesbrough not one. but though their team was five-nil down their lans were up for fun and when their consolation came before the whistle blew they echoed Luton's 'we want six' with a modest 'we want two'.

John Hegley was born in Islington, London, in 1953 and grew up in Luton. He read English and sociology at Bradford University and worked in children's theatre before becoming a performance poet. Five collections have now appeared: Glad to Wear Glasses (1990), Can I Come Down Now Dad? (1991), Five Sugars Please (1993), These Were Your Father's (1994). This poem is taken from his latest collection, just published, Love Cuts (Methuen, £8). "His words are droll and whimsical and onlic often make little sense" – Luton News. quite often make little sense" - Luton News.

OUR GAS IS PRICE

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BRINGING LOW COST

The road to environmental improvement. It's never ending.

Every day at B&Q we learn how we can improve our environmental performance. But we find the more we learn, there's even more we need to

It's like travelling a desert road, no matter how far you drive, the horizon seems as far away as ever.

When we set out in 1990, the issues that faced us seemed almost overwhelming in their scope and size. So we decided our best approach would be to research the issues that affected our business, list the priorities and formulate a policy and action plan for each one, so we could reduce our impact on the environment.

We knew we couldn't create quick-win solutions but we did promise continuous improvement on a long term scale.

Since our last update in September 1994, we can report many achievements, but we have identified other issues which need to be assessed and acted

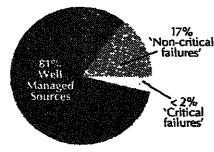
Progress made: the timber story



In 1991, nine out of ten of our suppliers could not or would not tell us where the timber they used came from. Yet half of them said that their timber came from sustainable sources. It meant we had to find out for ourselves.

By the end of 1993 we had identified all the sources of our timber products but also in 1991 we were the first retailer to sign up to the World Fund for Nature's timber target - we said, 'We will only buy timber products sourced from well managed forests from the end of 1995'.

It's a target we are confident that we are close to hitting. It has meant visiting suppliers and forests in 20 countries, repeatedly surveying over 100 suppliers and taking over 800 man days to scrutinise every timber product and its supply chain - an enormously complex process.



November 1995

The chart shows that at the time of going to press 81% of our timber products come from well managed sources, 17% is designated 'noncritical failures' - we expect to solve any outstanding problems by the end of the year. And currently, fewer than 2% are 'critical failures' and therefore we may have to seek alternative sources.

Even if B&Q is confident that all its timber comes from well managed sources, we need to go one step further for our customers. We have embarked on a programme to ensure that all timber products come from independently certified well managed forests by the end of 1999. Three product ranges - rubberwood doors, parquet flooring and red hardwood mouldings - have already been independently certified and there are ten other product ranges currently going through the process.

Below is a table which shows where all our timber comes from.

	Year of Ti	mber Audit
	1993	1994
Total timber usage bv B&Q's products	259,000 m3	283,268 m3 (an increase of 8.7%)
% of timber by volume traced to forest level:	39%	52.6%
% of timber by volume traced to a named processing mill:	59%	45.6%
°, traced to only a regional level within a country	0.23%	0.9%
% traced to a country level only	1,41%	0.9%
Number of countries supplying timber	41	50
% of the timber originating in the UK	52%	54%
o of timber from the temperate forests	92%	91.6%
Commonest species used	Conifers at 84%	Conifers at 85.5%
Most common tropical timber used	Rubberssond from 4 different Far Eastern countries at 1.5% of the total volume	Rubberwood from 5 different Far Eastern countries at 2.1% of the total volume

Local charcoal

This year, working with the Bio-Regional Charcoal Group, 30 B&Q stores have been stocking

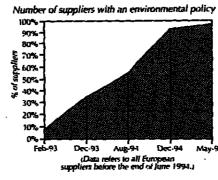
charcoal produced from their local woods. It has helped create new UK industry and stimulate and ecological economic revival of the UK's neglected woodland resource. By next season we are confident that the local charcoal (which will be stocked in about 120 stores) and all our charcoal sources, will be independently certified.

Not just timber

Whilst we have treated timber as a priority area, all 40,000 products we sell have an environmental impact. We have continued to work with all of our 500 suppliers to ensure that they are fully aware of their products' life cycles and have the action plans to reduce their

The supply chain

Our target was that by the end of last November all suppliers had to demonstrate a detailed awareness of the issues and be committed to reducing their impact. By



November 1994 94% complied with our target and those that didn't have now met our standards or no longer supply B&Q.

Having reached the point where all our suppliers had an environmental policy, the next step was to maintain the momentum and ensure that real improvements were being made.

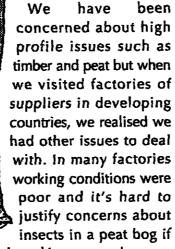


Last July we introduced QUEST. A scheme that measures suppliers on both their quality and environmental performance. We believe that product quality and environmental issues both contribute towards our main objective - customer satisfaction. Suppliers are now measured on ten principles and are graded on their published policy, their actions, their involvement in international supply chains*, on all aspects of packaging and their performance on timber.* (*where applicable).

New standards

QUEST is still in its infancy but by next year each supplier will be given a classification. Based on the quality and environmental criteria, it will range from 'exceptional supplier' to 'problem supplier'. 'Problem' and 'poor' suppliers will not have new products stocked until they have resolved the issues.

International supply chains



the people making our products are working in potentially hazardous conditions.

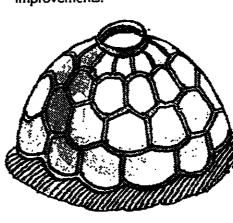
Last year we reported on our work in developing nations, including our involvement in a brassware factory in India, to improve health and safety conditions.

This year we have worked with our machine-woven rug supplier to investigate their manufacture in India. We thought the issue would be child labour but we learned from many sources that child labour is generally confined to hand knotted rug production. Nevertheless, there were other issues such as the dying of cotton yarns - using caustic soda, hydrogen peroxide and dyes - to focus our attention. A range of improvements, including the installation of a water filtration unit, were implemented once B&Q had made a long term commitment to the manufacturer's product.

Room for improvement

Other potential problems have been identified but still need attention. An example is capiz lampshades from the Philippines. They use capiz shells which come from free-living scallops living in sandy sea floors. Despite the legal regulations, illegal collection is not unknown. The quality of wiring at the factory, the lack of protective clothing and the use of diluted hydrochloric acid and lead solder also cause concern.

But simply ceasing trade with this factory would mean economic problems for the workers as well as the owner, so we will be making deeper investigations into capiz with a view to making realistic improvements.



Sometimes the magnitude of the problem is just too great. We visited a factory in India which makes hinges where we found conditions very poor. Potentially hazardous use of chemicals, untreated waste water, unacceptably high noise levels and incomprehensible safety warnings led us to the reluctant conclusion that we had little chance of improving conditions. We decided to transfer our business to a factory with better standards.

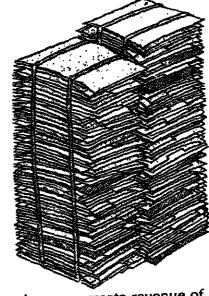
Even though we have a policy which sets out criteria for suppliers sourcing from developing nations; have visited many production facilities in these countries and have worked with suppliers to achieve some improvements, we know we have much more to do.

In the future we will continue to devote resources to ensure we find out more about working conditions in all these factories and try to improve them where feasible.

Keeping our own house in order

We have been making progress in our own operations. One of our most exciting challenges is our 'zero' waste project. Working with 12 of our stores in a pilot scheme, we are aiming to reuse and reduce one store's waste to zero and the remainder to 75%. It's a very ambitious target and even if we get close to it, we will have made a significant achievement.

Through recycling cardboard, for example, we can save up to £400,000 by not putting the cardboard into general waste skips,



and we can create revenue of an additional £400,000 by baling it up and selling it in large volumes. Proving that reducing the environmental impact of our business can sometimes save money.

Customer choice

Most of us know the benefits of insulating our houses, installing radiator flow valves and stopping dripping taps but changing our buying habits can also help.

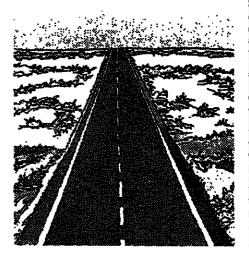
Why not buy energy efficient light bulbs, peat-free composts and water-based paints?

B&Q as a business is led by customer demand - if customers ask for environmentally sound alternatives, it will change our own buying patterns?

Shades of green

So, is B&Q any greener than when we started our environmental programme five years ago? Yes. Work with our suppliers, work on timber and peat and in developing nations, has definitely helped reduce the impact of B&Q upon the environment

But, even though we've come a few miles down the road, we know that the horizon is going to remain tantalisingly distant for many years to come.



B&Q has detailed its environmental policy and action plan in its second environmental review, 'How Green is My Front Door?"

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Reporting on our impact on the environment.

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Lottery sales total £4.5bn in first year

REBECCA FOWLER

The luckiest place to live in Britain is the Midlands if you want to win the National Lottery, while the players least likely to win the jackpot are based in Wales and Northern Ireland, according to research conducted for the first an-

niversary of the game. The National Lottery, which has taken £4.5bn in sales in its first year, celebrated its unprecedented commercial success yesterday. But lottery organisers also acknowledged it of the winnings. The luckier rehas attracted an equally forceful barrage of controversy for al-

legedly encouraging gambling. Although the survey found 89 per cent of people "approve" of the National Lottery, 40 per cent did not agree that it is "a harmless flutter", and nearly a third did not agree that it was a "re-

ally good thing for the country".

Among the most outspoken critics is the Church of England. Yesterday, the Rt Rev David Sheppard, the Bishop of Liverpool, called for an investigation into the lottery. "Gambling is being encouraged and artificially stimulated," said the bishop.
"The scratch cards are driving a coach and horse through all

the rules of gambling." David Rigg, communications director of Camelot, the lottery operator, confirmed that Gamblers Anonymous had a 17 per cent increase in calls from worried members of the public. Camelot is to co-fund research into the impact of the lottery with an independent organisation.

Forty per cent play the lottery because they find it fun. But a quarter, mostly in the 16-34 age group, are "big prize dreamers" who play for the jackpot.

More than 130 millionaires have been created by the lottery in its first year, with 20 winning

£10m. The highest number of winners, by television region, have come from the East, West and South Midlands, where there have been 53 jackpot claims, followed by 50 in London. Only 13 claimed jackpots

in Wales. While Wales accounts for 95 per cent of the national average sales, it has only 67 per cent of the national average of winnings. Scotland has 94 per cent of sales, on an average populagions include the South-west, which has 90 per cent of sales, but 113 per cent of winnings.

Camelot said that they would be extending the game over the next few years of their licence to sustain interest. They are considering a separate midweek lottery draw and more complex scratch cards.

The mid-week draw is one of the options we have, but there are lots of other games we are looking at too," said Tim Holley, chief executive of Camelot. 'We are want to keep sales at the same level, or with a slow level of growth."

The average weekly spend on the lottery is £2.33. Members of social group C2 have the biggest flutter, spending an average of £2.49 compared with C1s who spend the least, £2.33. Most lottery tickets are sold in London, where sales per capita are £1.55. The lottery was defended by

Virginia Bottomley, Minister for National Heritage, who said the weekly spend of £2 was "less than a packet of cigarettes" and denied it was exploiting the people least able to afford it. She also said that the age limit for buying tickets would remain at 16, and indicated it was unlikely

that prizes would be capped.

Robert Stephens: 'Heir to Olivier' finally won recognition during a Shakespearian Indian summer



Sir Robert: Above, as King Lear for the RSC in 1993 (Photograph: Stuart Morris). Below, with his wife, Patricia (left) and Dame Maggie Smith at this year's Variety Club Show awards

'Great light' goes out as acclaimed Lear dies



DAVID LISTER Arts Correspondent

Sir Robert Stephens, one of the most talented and outrageous actors of his generation, has died at the age of 64.

His death comes just days after the publication of an intimate, revelatory autobiography, and a collaboration with the Prince of Wales on an audio cassette of Shakespearian speeches.

In the Sixties, Sir Robert was one half of a seemingly glittering showbiz marriage to Dame Maggie Smith. The marriage ended acrimoniously following Sir Robert's drinking and womanising, but the couple later became friends again.

Yesterday Dame Maggie said: "Robert was a colourful if complicated character and a very, very fine actor. Although he had been very ill, I was very saddened to hear from Patty of his death this morning.'

Sir Robert, like Dame Maggie, was one of the stars of Laurence Olivier's National Theatre company in the Sixties. Some critics hailed him as a successor to

After this, Sir Robert's career went into the doldrums and he suffered from health problems. But at the start of the Nineties he was invited to act by the RSC's artistic director, Adrian Noble, who as a child had seen him in The Royal Hunt of the Sun

in the Sixties. Under Noble's direction, Sir Robert played Falstaff and King Lear and won awards, massive critical praise and, last year, a knighthood. To the surprise of many and the alarm of some, he published an autobiography this month

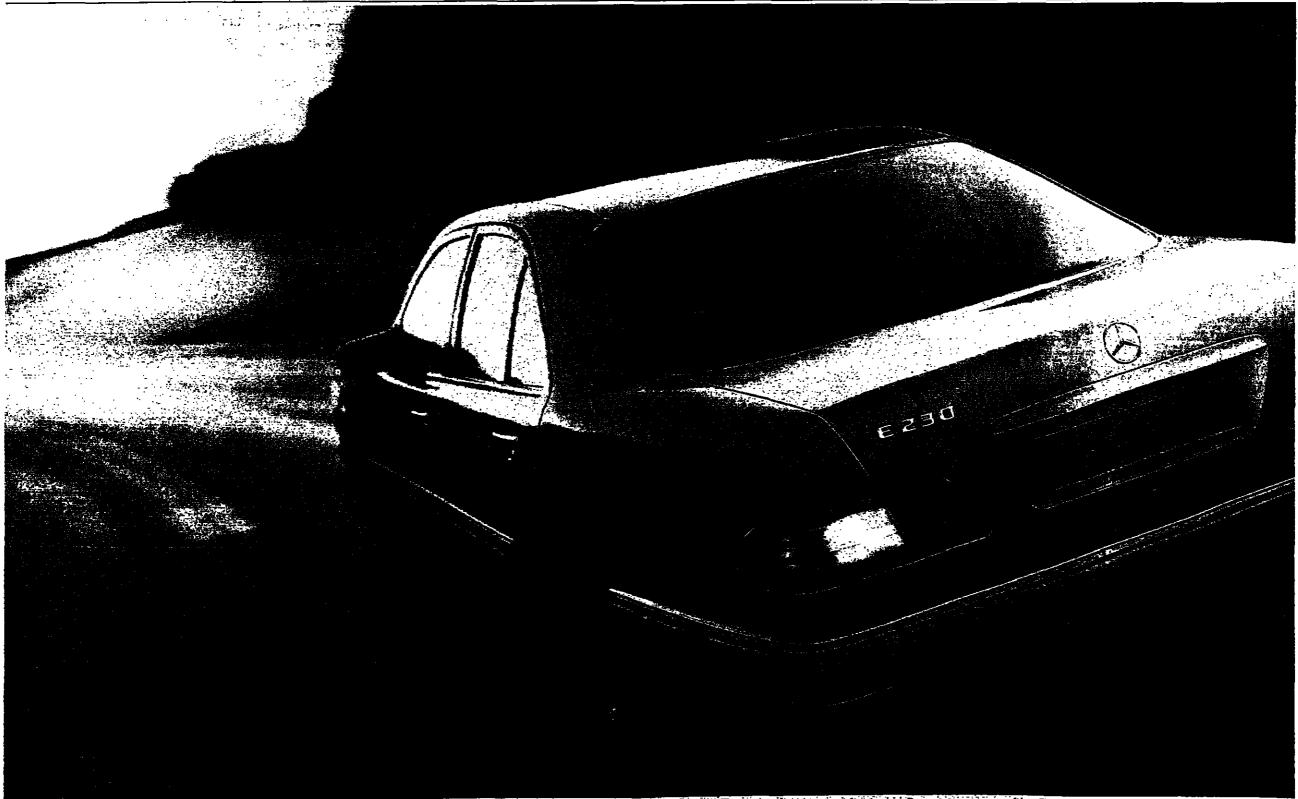
which revealed a series of love affairs with well-known people, including Lady Antonia Fraser. Sir Robert, who died on Monday night at the Royal Free Hospital in London, had

undergone a liver and kidney transplant. His wife, the actress Patricia Quinn, and his actor sons, Toby and Christopher, by former wife Maggie Smith, were

at his bedside when he died. Adrian Noble said yesterday: "A great light has gone out. When Robert was on form he burned brighter than almost any other actor I knew. His extraordinary vocal and physical energy belied his weak frame and a body wracked by illness and

Sir Peter Hall, who directed Sir Robert at the National Theatre. said: "I truly admired him. Robert Stephens was one of the great actors of his generation and yet his greatness was almost undeclared until very recently when he amazed and delighted us with Falstaff and King Lear.

"Theatre people will always be reminded that great talent is often a curse as well as a blessing. Obituary, page 18



Safety seen with fresh eyes.

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carried out by Auto Motor und Sport'

magazine resulted in the least

safety cell ever recorded. Fost as impressive, was the

level of injury measured by the crash This was also significantly lower

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interior in particular, the dashboard the steering wheal rim, the roof and

Talking of doors, we've also developed better side protection. Both front seat passengers now have the option of side airbags which need just seven milliseconds to activate.

Of course, the usefulness of all our new safety features is something we hope you'll never actually see. The new Mercedes E-class is, on

the other hand, something we hope you do see at the earliest opportunity. For more information, call us



The new Mercedes E-class. Engineering seen with fresh eyes. Poverty survey: Charities say lack of proper nutrition among pregnant women on benefits linked to higher illness in children

Mothers' poor eating puts babies at risk

A healthy balanced diet is off the menu for the majority of pregnant women living on benefits - putting their unborn babies' health at risk, according to

a new report. The study, by NCH Action for Children and the Maternity Alliance, says the cost of an adequate diet is "virtually impossible" for many women to afford, especially mothers-to-be aged 16 and 17 who are not eligible for full benefits.

The report, Poor Expectations - Poverty and Undernourishment in Pregnancy, also revealed that 33 per cent of pregnant women on income support were falling below "seriously deficient" levels in es-

Poor nutrition in pregnancy

is linked to low birthweight (under 2,500g or 51b 80z) which is the single most important cause of infant mortality.

Meanwhile, a second study published today shows that se-vere vitamin deficiency is putting homeless people at risk of scurvy and other diseases.

A survey of 400 by the charity Crisis found that they were only receiving one-fifth of the recommended intake of vitamin A and less than two-thirds of the

daily dose of vitamin C.

The NCH survey of 120 women estimated that the average cost of eating a realistic and nutritious diet of the kind recommended during pregnancy was £18.12 a week - almost half the income of a single 24-year-old on benefits and 65 per cent of the income of a single woman aged 16 to 17.

Nearly all those surveyed were eating a poor diet and 76 per cent regularly missed meals.

four low birthweight babies suffered disability. Thirty per cent of very low birthweight babies per cent regularly missed meals. A survey of their diet during the previous 24 hours showed that 43 per cent had eaten no vegctables apart from polatoes and 75 per cent had had no fruit.

At the same time nearly 80 per

cent had consumed sugar-rich

foods or drinks and nearly 90 per cent had eaten fatty snacks. Low birthweight babies are more likely to fall ill and to suffer from disabilities such as cerebral palsy, blindness or deafness. Poor language de-velopment low IQ and behav-

linked to low birthweight. Seven per cent of babies born in the UK still have a low birthweight compared with 4 and Undernourishment in Pregper cent in most EU nations.

ioural problems have all been

(1,750g) did not survive past five years old, while 16 per cent of the remainder had cerebral palsy or blindness.
Tom White, chief executive of

NCH Action for Children, said: "The difficulties faced by pregnant women in eating a healthy of a lack of knowledge but of poor material circumstances and low incomes.

The charities are calling on the DSS to introduce a premipregnancy is confirmed to encan be met.

□ Poor Expectations, Poverty er cent in most EU nations. nancy, NCH. Action, 85 Highbur, In a Scottish study, one in Park, London N5 1UD. £5.



Tight budget: Marie Vincent at a press conference to launch the NCH's report yesterday

Chip-plan diet satisfies hunger on the breadline

"Chips with everything. They fill you up." is the way Marie Vincent's sums up her diet and that of her three young children, writes Glenda Cooper.

Managing on a budget of just over £100 a week (£78 Income Support and £27 Family Allowance) for herself, Nicky, seven, Paul, three, and Roxanne. one, is difficult, she admits. And with bills coming in that have to be paid, food is the first necessity to suffer.

Marie, 22, could not afford to eat healthily in her three pregnancies and regularly missed meals to keep her other children fed. Although all her children were average birthweight, her son Paul is now experiencing developmental difficulties which she attributes to their poor

This is not because she knows nothing about nutrition: "Of my hunger. I'd love to eat fresh course I'd like to give them sal- fruit and vegetables but a bag ads and things like that, things of crisps is more filling and they should be eating, fruit much cheaper." ford it on the benefits they were eventually born with avgive you." she said. "You've got erage birthweight, she is still to pay the electric and the gas concerned about the future, and I put away some money in particularly as Paul is developphone stamps every week. Then what's left goes on food.

A normal menu for the Vin-setting up [the children] for bad cent family would begin by ei- health in later life by not being ther skipping breakfast or able to provide them with the having a bit of toast. Nicky and Paul have their lunch at school and playgroup, and Marie developing. But what can I would have some soup. Then for do?"

CASE STUDY

tea "chips and a sausage or chips and fish fingers - basically chips and something."

Apart from worrying about the children's diet. Marie's own eating habits were even less healthy when she was pregnant. She began by skipping meals when money was short: "The kids would always come first you see. I couldn't take food

-When I cook for them, it put me off, which made it easier. After standing there cooking chips and things like that, you don't feel like eating that yourself."

"I probably had a healthier diet during my first pregnancy but once I had other children to feed, my health came second and I would miss meals or eat toast or drink lots of tea to stop

Relieved that her children ing more slowly than other children: "I still worry that I'm healthy food they should be eating while they are growing and

- ADVERTISEMENT

INFORMATION EXPOSES HUGE INTERNATIONAL RING

YARD QUESTIONS **MARQUIS ABOUT** INVOLVEMENT IN ALMERA HEIST

The Marquis De Brieve, one of Europe's foremost art collectors, has been brought in for questioning over the multimillion pound off shore Almera heist in which 5,594 new Nissans went missing.

The Marquis is also being interrogated about his involvement in the spate of Almera disappearances that have taken place throughout Britain over the last two weeks. A spokesman for Scotland Yard told reporters that the Marquis was being 'much more co-operative' than Lord Wordingham who police arrested two

The Marquis is thought to have revealed the presence of a huge international ring of Almera abductors recruited by the notorious Mr. Big, the

mastermind behind the operation. Police released an artist's impression of Mr. Big last week and are certain that the Marquis knows of his whereabouts and true identity.

Meanwhile police are advising all new owners to remain vigilant. 'Although Nissan's highly acclaimed Anti Theft System makes Almera impossible to steal, there have been several cases where the abductors posed as parking officials and simply towed the

cars away." Nissan have assured potential purchasers that new Almeras are available from a secret location high security guard. Any member of the public wishing for more information should call 0345 66 99 66.



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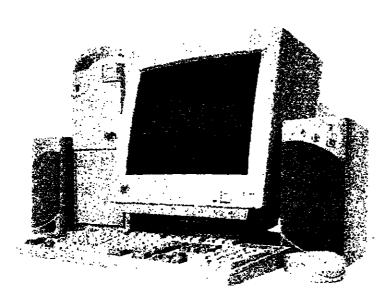
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Commonwealth meeting: Angry Nigeria insists it is loyal to the democratic principles of Harare declaration

Summit sends tough message to 'bad boys'

STEVE CRAWSHAW

The roller-coaster Commonwealth summit in Auckland one of the most dramatic in recent years - ended yesterday with claims by Commonwealth leaders that the decisions taken

would prove to be "historic". The result was both a fudge and a great leap forward. On the half-full versus half-empty prin-

Envoys recalled

Nigeria yesterday recalled its envoys from abroad, retaliating for similar action taken by several countries in protest at the hangings of nine minority rights activists, Reuter reports. South Africa meanwhile withdrew an invitation to Nigeria to take part in a four-nation African soccer tournament next week and the ruling African National Congress called an urgent meeting with its trade union and political allies for today to discuss ac-

tion against Nigeria. In Hamburg protesters erected a gallows outside Shell oil's German headquarters and accused it of sharing blame for the executions.

ciple, optimists and pessimists could plausibly interpret the

outcome in opposite ways. The final communiqué incorporates the statement suspending Nigeria, with threatened expulsion if it does not mend its ways within two years. It also incorporates the Millbrook Programme, agreed at the weekend, which establishes a framework for ensuring that member states conform to certain basic norms. The programme sets out options for helping, persuading and pun-ishing countries that fail to meet the required standards.

All of which is more dramatic than anything the Common-wealth has achieved before. It was the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa in Nigeria that shocked the leaders out of their half-com-

placency. Suddenly, action seemed essential as never before. Yet the action against Nigeria is far less than Nigerian human rights activists and others would like to see. They are calling for sanctions or an oil embargo, as a punishment for the hanging last week of Saro-Wiwa and eight others on apparently trumped-up charges of murder. and for other abuses of human rights. An oil embargo would hit Nigeria immediately, and hard



Defiant voice: Nigeria's Foreign Minister Tom Ikimi (right) and his advisers at a turbulent press conference in Auckland yesterday

but would also affect the wealth relationship has been commercial interests of those imposing the embargo.

None the less, Nigeria's re-action to the suspension is significant in terms of assessing the effectiveness of the Commonwealth action. The Nigerian Foreign Minister, Chief Tom Ikimi, complained that the suspension was based on unsubstantiated media reports about the executions (implying the extraordinary possibility that Saro-Wiwa and the others might still be alive). Above all, he insisted that the "flexible and pragmatic character of the Common-

gravely and ominously altered".

Mr Ikimi insisted that the

Nigerian military regime is loyal to the Harare declaration of 1991 which emphasised the im-portance of democracy and human rights. But, he added: "In our view they [the Harare principles were not meant to become legalistic provisions, giving unlimited mandate for interference in the internal affairs of Commonwealth countries."

His angry complaints suggested that Nigeria may be rattled by the almost unanimous response to Nigeria's defiance of the Commonwealth (the only dissenting vote was from Gambia, which itself has a military regime).

He appeared to criticise South Africa and its neighbours and to draw a line between the interests of southern Africa and the rest of the continent. President Nelson Mandela has been sharply critical of Nigeria and played a leading role in its suspension. He, John Major, and the New Zealand Prime Minister, Jim Bolger, sat together on the flight to the weekend retreat, and in effect stitched up a deal for the pro-

posed suspension of Nigeria during the flight.

In one respect at least, Mr Iki-mi scored a hit with yesterday's declaration. With reference to proposals to send an eminent persons' group to Nigeria, he suggested that, "for the integrity and credibility of such a group", its members should be drawn from countries where there are no political prisoners, where opposition leaders are not in jail and where press freedom is unfettered. As Mr Ikimi well knew, many of the other 52 members of the Commonwealth would not meet these criteria.

The most important feature of the Millbrook declaration is

with democratic governments.

the signal it sends: at least in theory, bad-boy behaviour will no longer be permitted. Officials were optimistic yesterday that abusers of democracy, including Gambia and Sierra Leone. would get the message: "You'll see them at the next ... meeting

It was confirmed yesterday that a standing action group will be formed to deal with "serious or persistent violations" of the rare principles. News analysis, page 15

INBRIEF

Air crash kills 50

Lagos — A Nigeria Airways Boeing 737, with 120 people aboard, crashed on landing and burst into flames at Kaduna airport in northern Nigeria, killing at least 50 people and injuring 44, a Federal Civil Aviation Authority official said. One Briton is believed to be among the in-

Kohl hits at China

Peking — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl slapped China on the wrist by handing Premier Li Peng a list of 15 Chinese political prisoners, even as German firms signed deals worth \$1bn. German officials declined to say if Mr Kohl demanded the release of the prisoners or what was Mr Li's reaction Reuter

Father's plea

Strasbourg — Jean-Louis Chif-fot, the father of one of two French airmen shot down over Bosnia two months ago, launched an anguished appeal to Nato leaders to seek news of the missing men in a letter published by the French daily l'Est Republicain.

Double award

Paris — The Russian-born writer Andrei Makine won the Goncourt prize in an unprecedented double award. Mr Makine, 37, had received the Medicis prize for his autobiographical novel Le Testament Français, about a boy sharing French and Russian cultures. It was the first time the the Goncourt jury had given the prize to a previously rewarded

Naked ambition

Athens — Dimitra Liani-Papandreou, 40. Greece's con-troversial "First Lady", strode confidently into a meeting of the ruling Socialists in the Athens parliament despite publication of a new naked picture and barsh comments about her political ambitions. She makes a point of on accompanying her husband, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, 76, everywhere.

Basque protest

Paris — Eighty-one people went on trial in Paris suspected of collaborating with Basque ETA separatists as about 30 people demonstrated outside the court. The protesters, who say the accused were providing legal asylum and accuse France of staging a political trial, chanted slogans under a banner say-ing. No to the trial against

Chinese whispers get a stormy broadcast in Hong Kong

STEPHEN VINES Hong Kong

Chief Justice Sir Ti Liang Yang thought his secret was safe when he told a senior Chinese official that the Bill of Rights, the centrepiece of the government's civil rights programme, undermined the legal system. However, the official decided to go public on what he heard.

been doing his best to get to know the new masters. He has been so successful that many believe he has emerged as a leading contender for Chief Executive of the Hong Kong government when China resumes sovereignty in 1997.

However, the studiously noncontroversial Chief Justice appears to have underestimated

quite prepared to trot along until it hits an obstacle; then it does what needs to done to get round it even if this means throwing the rider.

Sir Ti Liang was thrown by Zhang Junsheng, the ever-smiling chief spokesman and vicedirector of the New China News Agency in Hong Kong, which serves as Peking's de facto em-

know for sure that you are doing

each exercise properly. And you

will know for sure that you are

devoting the proper time to each

exercise. And most important I

will be right there guiding and

encouraging you all the way. I

promise I will flanen your pot

belly and slim your midsection

so quickly and easily that you

won't believe your eyes. A firm.

flat stomach makes you look and

feel better. Your posture often

problems often disappear.

heading the drive to get the Bill of Rights watered down. Local opposition to watering

down the Bill is strong and when the Chief Justice gave the small-est hint of criticism of China's position, saying that maybe the new government could make a decision on the Bill, rather than rushing into hasty action, Mr Zhang showed no compunction in disclosing a con-

The Chief Justice said if he had known his views "would be unveiled in public, I would have chosen my words more carefully and done some research before making them".

He did not, however, deny making the remarks and confined any reservations he had about criticising the policies of his current bosses by saying: "in future, I'll not talk too much.

Yesterday the Chief Justice went to a meeting with Mrs Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, which she described as a routine discussion. He then promised to put down on paper his views

about the Bill of Rights. The Governor, Chris Patten, has decided to say nothing. The feeling in government circles is that Sir Ti Liang has dug himself in a hole and that he will

was only being practical in wanting to curb the Bill of Rights. Other civil servants may well join Sir Ti Liang in telling Chinese officials about misgivings over aspects of policy which China does not like. However, they do not expect these views

Meanwhile, another High

Court judge, Benjamin Liu,

told the Peking-controlled Wen

Wei Po newspaper that China

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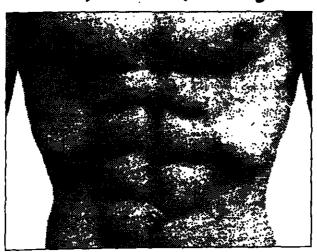
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international

Assassination inquiry: How secret service failed to follow up information on plot to kill Rabin

Shin Bet fights to save its skin

PATRICK COCKBURN

"Look at that cool little Yemenite: small but a bastard. He plans to shoot Rabin."

Shlomo Halevy, a 25-year-old student and army reservist, claimed that he heard this fragment of conversation in a lavatory in the washroom of Tel Aviv Central Bus Station just after midnight on 25 June this year.

Mr Halevy heard a second man, not realising he was being overheard, ask if the Yemeni had obtained a pistol. He was told by his companion that he had the gun and had also been twice to the synagogue to confess. The two men then discussed the likelihood of the assassination being successful.

Later the same day Mr Halevy, who was working as a reservist in the Central Command of the Israeli army, told his commanding officer about a plan to murder the prime minister. He was then interrogated by the Jerusalem police, to whom he told the same story.

His police interrogator noted that he was "a serious individual ... He is a student and intelligent." He was only questioned once and the police and the Shin Bet security service failed to find the small religious Israeli of Yemeni extraction who was planning to kill Yitzhak Rabin with a pistol.

Imagine the horror in the Shin Bet, responsible for guarding Rabin, on the night of 4 November when they realised that a person answering exactly to the description given by Mr Halevy four months earlier had just killed the prime minister.

Not only had the 20 Shin Bet guards let Yigal Amir fire his pistol 16 inches from Rabin's chest but the intelligence agency had failed to follow up the accurate information given to them about the assassination

Mr Halevy was immediately arrested and repeated that he knew about Mr Amir's plans but his explanation of how he knew about them changed drastically. He had first got to know Mr Amir two years ago at Bar-llan

University law school, Mildly left-wing himself, Mr Halevy had a girlfriend who was an activist in a right-wing student group at Bar-Ilan and it was she who told him about Mr Amir and his plans.

He made up the story about hearing the information at the bus station - and concealed the name of Mr Amir - in order to

All this information is known because the Shin Bet is des-perately trying to defend itself against accusations of gross negligence.

At the end of last week the Yediot Aharanot newspaper published a report that the Shin Bet had received a detailed warning ahead of the assassination but had chosen to ignore it.

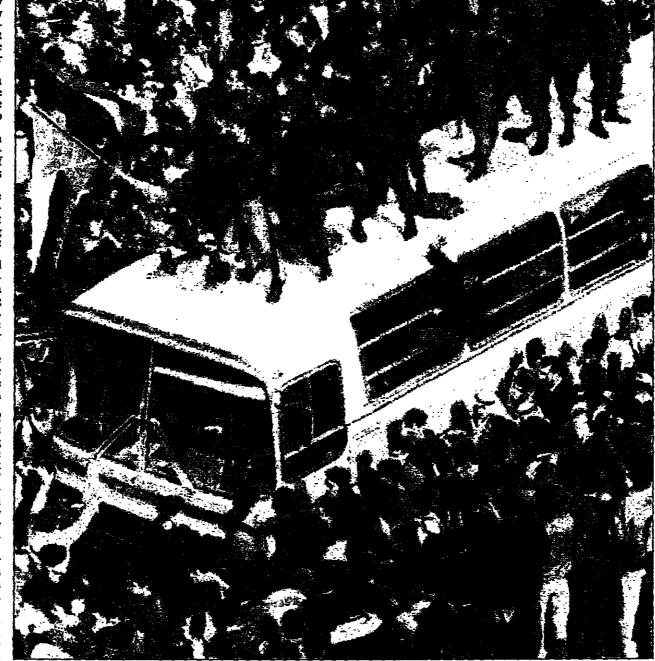
On Sunday morning the head of the organisation took the un-precedented decision to send a fax to Israeli army radio giving the Shin Bet's version of events. including the original police report of its interrogation of Mr Halevy on 25 June.

The aim is to show that the Shin Bet did not have the name of the potential assassin, but the explanation may not get them off the hook.

Mr Halevy was interrogated only once. If he had reported a similar conversation among Palestinians in east Jerusalem bus station would the Shin Bet have shown so little interest? Shin Bet officials will find it difficult to escape the suggestion that if they had asked a few more questions. Mr Halevy might have disgorged the identity of the potential assassin.

Like the FBI under J Edgar Hoover, the Shin Bet has always had a talent for self-promotion but over the last year it has been hit by a series of scandals.

In April this year Abdel Samed Hrizat, a Hamas suspect from Hebron, was beaten to death when under interrogation by Shin Bet agents in his cell in Jerusalem. In another scandal an associate of Aryeh Deri, Israeli political kingmaker and former interior minister, who is on trial for corruption, said he knew all about police tapping of his phone through friends in the this year.



Showing the flag: Palestinian policemen being fêted on arrival in Jenin after the Israelis left

Shin Bet. Former Shin Bet officers were also heavily involved in the bugging of 200 media. business and political figures by an Israeli newspaper earlier

In Israel the shock of the assassination of Rabin overshadowed the pull-out of Israeli forces from the northern West Bank town of Jenin early yesterday. After 28 years of occu-

pation, Palestinians danced and shouted "God is Great" as the last 15 Israeli jeeps drove out of the military headquarters under PLO escort. Hundreds of Palestinians, some firing guns and others on horseback, rushed in to replace them.

It was the first transfer of a West Bank city since Rabin and Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chair-

man, signed a deal in Washington on 28 September to expand Palestinian self-rule. Residents of Jenin, which has 40,000 people, joined hands and danced in the courtyard of the military headquarters.

About 550 Palestinian policemen arrived during the day from Jericho, the only town on the West Bank to get autono-

Bomb strikes at Saudi ruler and Western backers

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Editor

At 10.20am yesterday a foreign banker in Rivadh felt a sudden change in air pressure and a tremor "like an earthquake" rocked his steel and glass office as a car bomb exploded outside a US-run training centre for the Saudi National Guard.

According to diplomats in Rivadh, about 150lbs of explosives were packed inside a Chevrolet van in the car park outside the innocuously named Office of Programme Management". Five Americans and one Filipino were killed in the attack, the first known terror-ist action in Saudi Arabia since 1991. More than 60 people were injured, 30 of them Americans.

So precise was the targeting and so symbolic the target that the bombing was clearly devised to send a dramatic signal both to the Saudi royal family and to their Western allies.

The "Office of Programme Management" was a threestorey building where US mil-itary and civilian personnel were employed to train mem-bers of the 57,000-strong National Guard in internal security and the use of weapons and technology systems boughtfrom the United States. The National Guard is commanded by Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, the next in line to King Fahd.
With one blow the bombers

thus struck at the organisation charged with maintaining the royal family in power and also at its foreign supporters. Their action highlighted the semicovert and vastly expensive op-erations which bind the Saudi system and its Western allies together. The kingdom is the world's leading oil producer and has spent an estimated \$76bn (£49bn) on arms since 1987. Its defence procurement policy is closely tied to British interests through the controversial £20bn oil-for-arms Al-Yamamah deal.

The alliance between the royal family and the West draws bitter criticism from radical Muslims in Saudi Arabia itself. It is also the object of repeated denunciation by Iraq and Iran, which both abhor the increased Western military presence in the area since the 1991 Gulf war. There are about 5,000 Western troops in the Gulf and at least 8,000 US Marines and sailors of board 26 ships. But the Saudi ambassador in

Guate

London, Dr Ghazi Algosalin, was quite correct to say yester. day that this was "an isolated" incident", for the Saudi incident gence services have managed to maintain a high level of security despite repeated threats against stern interests.

Two little-known groups have issued specific threats against Western forces in the kingdom. Earlier this year the so-called Movement for Islamic Change in the Arabian peninsula" issued-leaflets demanding that for-eign troops should leave the area by 28 June. Yesterday a caller who said he spoke for the Tigers of the Gulf claimed responsibility for the blast.

Whatever the nom de guerre, there is little doubt that tightly knit groups of entremists exist within the kingdom who are dedicated to purging it of Western influence. The royal family will almost certainly choose to blame external enemies for the bombing.

But the fact is that Saudi Ara-

bia contains quite enough zeal-ous individuals - opposed to the kingdom's existing policies and motivated by a detestation of the West - to organise and carry out a terrorist campaign. Many are the so-called "Afghanis", reli-giously-inspired young men who went to fight Communism in Afghanistan and received training in arms and explosives from the CIA and other Western in-

telligence services.
These talents are now available to be harnessed to the moods of boredom, resentment and frustration which some young Saudis harbour towards the ruling system. In London, a spokesman for the opposition Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights claimed yesterday that "there are very well trained young men who have weapons and they are not controlled by government security.

The presence of the CDLR in

London has drawn complaints from the Saudi government but it has confined its activities to propaganda denouncing the roy-al family for corrupt and irreligious behaviour.



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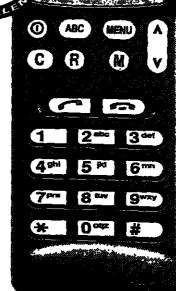
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Guatemala elections: Presidential candidates face a second round



Clinton threatens to shut government

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

President Bill Clinton yesterday raised the stakes further in the great budget war with Congress by vetoing a bill that would have raised the US Treasury's debt ceiling, and vowing the same fate for another - a rejection that would virtually ensure a partial government shutdown today.

In a Churchillian speech to

the centrist Democratic Leadership Council, the President declared war on the Republican plan to balance the budget in seven years, promising to "fight it today, fight it tomorrow, fight it next week and next month". He supported a balanced budget, but not one "that robs the American Dream from millions of Americans.

As he spoke, the Senate was winding up the debate on the second bill, permitting the gov-ernment to continue spending for a further month, despite Congress's failure to send the President a budget for the 1995/96 fiscal year, which started last 1 October. Like the debtceiling measure, it has conditions Mr Clinton yesterday again deemed unacceptable.

Assuming a veto, the government's spending authority would run out at midnight last night, and this morning \$00,000 federal employees in non-essential parts of government would be sent home without pay. Air traffic control, the mail and the military would continue. Federal museums and monuments would close, as would offices for first-time passports, social security and vet-

erans' benefits applicants. A partial government shutdown is almost routine. Feuding over the budget has led to nine brief closures since 1980. most recently in 1990, when George Bush had to break his "no new taxes" pledge, possibly costing himself re-election two years later in the process.

This time, the rhetoric is even more heated and the political stakes, arguably, even higher. At one level, the pos-turing is a game of bhuff, whose object is to push the blame on to the other side, ahead of a settlement that sooner or later contempt for politicians.

must come. But great ambitions and careers, even the 1996 presidential contest, could depend upon the outcome.

For Mr Clinton, the confrontation is a last opportunity to depict himself as a man who can stand up to pressure, a lone voice of reason holding back Newt Gingrich, the Speaker, and his ruthless Republicans, bent on taking from the poor to line the pockets of the rich.

Hence the President's impending veto of the temporary spending bill, on the grounds that the Republicans have attached to it increases in premiums on Medicare, the federal health scheme for the elderly.

The Republicans' goal is to

show that they mean to balance the budget and keep the promise that helped them win control of Congress in 1994. In dispute are two different visions of government's role, an argument that will underlie next year's presidential campaign. Right now, it is an argument Mr Clinton is winning in the opinion polls, even if the result in the country may be a new surge of

Meanwhile, Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, announced moves to prevent a default that might otherwise have come as early as tomorrow or Thursday, when \$102bn (£65bn) of scheduled debt interest and principal payment would have sent the government through its current \$4.9 trillion

debt ceiling. Instead, Mr Rubin plans to find the money by borrowing from two government-run pension funds to meet the government's obligations to its creditors. In this way, economists say he could stave off default for weeks, or even months. That realisation sent bonds and the dollar higher, but shares fell on the mounting political un-

Later this week, a third presidential veto is all but certain when Congress sends Mr Clinton the omnibus "reconciliation" bill containing the blueprint of a balanced budget

This includes \$270bn of cuts in Medicare, deep cuts in welfare, offset by income and capital gains tax cuts worth \$245bn.

Wait for change: Voters queueing at San Andres Iztapa. Most of Guatemala's Indians stayed at home, however Ex-dictator's 'puppet' has hope of power

PHIL DAVISON

Guatemala may have to hold a run-off presidential election on 7 January despite Sunday's clear-cut victory by Alvaro Arzu, a 49-year-old travel agent and conservative former foreign

Mr Arzu, candidate of the National Advancement Party (PAN), was far ahead of Alfonso Portillo of the Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG), the party run by the former military lictator General Efrain Rios

inated candidates

was the first time the Left had participated in elections since the return to democracy in

But as always in Guatemala's recent democratic history, most of the country's Indians - 60 per cent of the population - stayed home and the overall turn-out looked like being below 50 per

Many Guatemalans who abstained recalled what had happened to the last man they elected. Jorge Serrano, elected in 1990, dissolved Congress in 1993 and tried unsuccessfully to seize dictatorial powers. Ramiro de Leon Carpio, then the country's human rights ombudsman, was named by Congress to fin-ish the presidential term.

Individual issues were harel a factor. For illiterate Indians the vote came down to person alities, all of whom largely promised the same - an end to impunity for criminals, an end to discrimination against Indians, peace with the guerrillas and righting the inequality between the wealthy ladino (white) élite and the 80 per cent who live below the poverty line.

All parties used simple symbols on their ballot slips. One candidate, a wealthy landowner known as "the man in the hat". used a symbol of a sombrero. Another used a rubbish lorry, symbol of how he planned to clean up the streets. Even many illiterate people could recognise the acronym PAN as the most important word in their vocab-

ulary - "bread".
"It's all a show. Nothing will change under Arzu," Juan Hernandez, a 43-year-old Kakchiquel Indian, told me in the town of Chimaltenango. "He's a preacher who hasn't been converted. Los poderosos [the powerful ones] only like us during campaign time, then they ignore us again. They say we Indians do not have the preparation to govern but they won't let us govern. It's just like South Africa."

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the power behind the throne. The newly-formed social democratic New Guatemala Democratic Front, with a solid Mayan Indian base, was a distant third in Sunday's vote. It

NEWBURY

Montt. But the winner was likely to fall short of the 50 per

giance, Mr Portillo, considered something of a puppet of General Rios Montt, could move ahead leaving the former -scorched earth dictator as

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Where Castles In The Air Take Shape

Paris snub deepens Nato leadership crisis

SARAH HELM

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

Nato's desperate search for a ing even more frantic yesterday as the alliance plans for its biggest military operation yet, the peace-implementation force in the former Yugoslavia.

France snubbed the only current declared candidate, the for-mer Danish foreign minister, a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, in a gesture of thinly-disguised contempt, while the US and Geroma, used a similarly dismissive many put new pressure on Douglas Hurd, the former foreign secretary, to enter the ring. The French yesterday banned reporters from covering the Danish candidate's meeting with the French Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette, at the Quai d'Orsay. "We have never even spoken about Mr Elle-

spokeswoman, Catherine Col-oma, used a similarly dismissive turn of phrase, "We have no def-

Mr Ellemann-Jensen does not live up to one the three French criteria for a new secretary-general: he does not speak French. The other two are that the candidate should support Nato enlargement and closer integration of Nato with the European Union through the Western European Union

(WEU). France would have liked the former Dutch prime minister, Rund Lubbers, but the US vetoed his candidacy last week. That decision had more to do with offence at the effrontery of the European fail-ure to consult them sufficiently

than with the quality of Mr Lub-bers as a candidate. Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, is understood to have obtained backing from Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, for a Hnrd bid. tained the backing of the prospective candidate himself, who remains adamant that he

is not interested in the Nato job. Washington has already tried to get Mr Hurd to change his mind but close advisers of the former foreign secretary said yesterday that he still had no intention of doing so.

The crisis following the res-

ignation of the Belgian secre-tary-general, Willy Claes, over meial scandal is the most

However, the allies have not ob- important issue being discussed in the margins of the WEU ministerial meeting in Madrid

which began yesterday.

Britain's Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, attended a meeting of the 13-nation West European Arma ments Group. The main WEU meeting, between the foreign ministers of the 10 full WEU members, plus eight observers and associate members, takes place today. This afternoon they will be joined by ministers

ners" from Eastern Europe.

The meeting is the last before Britain takes over the presi-dency of the WEU at the end of the year. The main topics are Britain's presidency and the treatment of defence issues at next year's EU inter-Govern-

mental Conference.
Britain continues to press for the WEU to be the main forum for European defence cooperation in the field of crisis management, humanitarian aid

to stress this throughout a presidency. Any more weight military problem is likely in bring in the non-European members of Nato - the US and

The British position envising reinforced partnership between an autonomous WEU and the EU which might include jobs task forces of include duration But any resurpation of the WEU's defence function is the EU is strongly opposed.

Croats indicted for war crimes

The Hague (AP) — The Yu- of Ahmici firing automatic goslav war crimes tribunal weapons, shot down an estiyesterday announced the indictment of six Bosnian Croat leaders accused of wiping out a Muslim community in central Bosnia. However, UN officials in Sarajevo said they will continue to co-operate with those

The crimes the six are accused of were carried out on "such a wide scale and widespread basis, and implemented in such a systematic fashion that they have effectively destroyed or removed almost the entire Muslim civilian population in the Lasva Valley" in central Bosnia between May 1992 and May 1993, according to tribunal papers.

Dario Kordic, chairman of the Croatian Democratic Union in Croat-held Bosnia, and Tihofil Blaskic, chief of staff of the Croatian Defence Council (HVO) in Bosnia, were charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Croatian Democratic Union is the sister party of Croatia's ruling Democratic Union of President

Franjo Tudjman. Mr Blaskie and Mr Kordie were accused of responsibility for the actions of units who destroyed at least 14 towns in the Lasva River Valley, including the notorious Ahmici Massacre on 16 April, 1993, when HVO

mated 120 people and burned their home

The indictments attracted criticism from a senior Bosnian Croat official. Jozo Leutar. Deputy Interior Minister of both the Bosnian Muslim-Croat federation and the self-styled Bosnian Croat state, said that both sides committed mistakes during the Croat-Muslim conflict but that they should now stick together and gather data for federal authorities.

"I think that somebody's up to slowing down or even stop-ping the functioning of the federation." Mr Leutar said. "We cannot allow that our leaders be in the papers mentioned in such contexts while we know that they have contributed to the creation of the federation." Mr Leutar said the tribunal should concentrate on crimes committed by Serbs.

■Washington — The US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, will join the Bosnia peace falks in Ohio today but his intervention is unlikely to result in an early comprehensive Balkan settlement, his spokesman said. "It is extremely unlikely, if not highly improb-able, that there will be a comprehensive peace agreement reached tomorrow", said the State Department spokesman,



Juppé tries to head off social security

The ferocious argument about the future of France's health and social security system entered its final stage yesterday with the opening of a two-day debate in the National Assembly by the prime minister, Alain Juppé. The debate, expected to be acrimonious, with deep divisions on the right as well as between right and left, is intended to pave the way for Mr Juppé

forms tomorrow, when they will be made the subject of a vote of confidence.

With the prospect of wide-spread public sector strikes looming today, Mr Juppé was clearly concerned not to be accused of making "cuts" for their own sake and insisted that the crisis facing the social security system - popularly known as the Sécu - was not just financial. It lay, he said, in the inability of the system to combat "the two great plagues that ployment and deprivation". markedly better life-expectan-Swelling costs, especially of the cy or permatal mortality rates health service, and stagnating revenue, however, are at the root of the problem. The Sécu's annual deficit increased from 10bn to 60bn francs between 1990 and 1993, and its debt for this year is expected to reach

Fr64bn (£8.4bn). Mr Juppé said yesterday that France spends 25 per cent per head more on health care than

cy or perinatal mortality rates than anyone else. He also noted that the cost of operations could vary by 50 per cent from one region to another.

Soon after taking office, Mr Juppé said that he intended to bring the Secu back into balance on its current account within debt stands at between Fr120bn and Fr230bn. The task became Germany and 60 per cent more more preent two weeks ago afthan Britain, and tops the Eu- ter President Chirac, with the

to say that his absolute priority was reducing the Fr320bn domestic budget deficit. Although the Sécu is run separately from the state budget and funded almost entirely by workers' and employers' contributions, its

The problem represented by the system has been recognised by successive recent French governments, but the search for

debts have to be serviced by the

difference, especially on the right, is whether revenue should

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be increased or spending cut.

Mr Juppé is believed to
favour the introduction of a
"temporary" contribution to be paid by workers and employers to eliminate the Sécu's debt. The taxation of family allowances appears to have been ruled out, but this and other family benefits could be frozen.

Edouard Balladur, the former premier, has warned

Fast-growing Greens revive German left's hopes of power

Germany's demoralised left is bolic state, left-wing sympaabout to get a wake-up call. As thisers have not given up hope in Buddha-like serenity, his Social Democrat opponents will be aimlessly zig-zagging their way through a bleak political landscape and hurling abuse at one another at their annual party congress this week.

If the congress runs according to script, the SPD will reluctantly re-elect its bumbling leader. Rudolf Scharping, and plunge deeper in the opinion polls. The task of catching up with the Christian Democrats,

polls, will seem forlorn.

But despite the SPD's shamon the coat-tails of the reincarnated Greens. For while the Social Democrats have wallowed in self-pity, the Greens have been scooping up votes in regional elections and rising in the national polls. Once the laughing stock of the political scene, Petra Kelly's heirs have grown up and now claim to be preparing for government.

Since last year's general elec-tions, when they returned to the gaining administrative experi-Bundestag with 49 MPs, after ence in a few more next year.

As the SPD stumbles, revamped environmentalists have emerged as the driving force in a radical coalition challenging Chancellor Kohl

four years in the wilderness, the Among university students, years ago the Greens were events in former Yugoslavia, noto work the streets."

Greens have increased their an older age group than in turfed out of the federal partably the rape of Srebrenica.

The "streets" are presence in regional assemblies. Struggling to clear the 5 per cent threshold for seats in their first years of existence, their score now regularly runs into double figures. In last month's elections to the Berlin assembly, they captured more than 14 per cent of the vote. The Greens are part of the governing coalition in three federal

Britain, Greens have become the party of first choice. According to a recent poll by Die Zeir, the SPD, which 20 years ago enjoyed 45 per cent support, now gets only 18 per cent of the campus vote. The Greens have 35 per cent.

Ludger Volmer, a Green MP, said: "A lot of natural SPD supporters are coming to us at the moment." His party knows all about the electoral conse-

liament after a period of war-fare between "Fundis", the fundamentalist wing which wanted permanent revolution. and the "Realos", the advocates of voter-friendly realpolitik.

The rout of 1990 allowed the Greens to regroup. The "Fundis" returned to their communes, and the "Realos" set about moulding a softer image. Even their opposition to the deployment of German troops quences of domestic rows. Five abroad has been tempered by

"Zero growth", the economic orthodoxy of yesteryear, has become today's heresy. "We don't say we want zero growth, but we say growth must not be the guiding principle of the economy," explains Mr Volmer, spokesman of the rump left wing in the party.

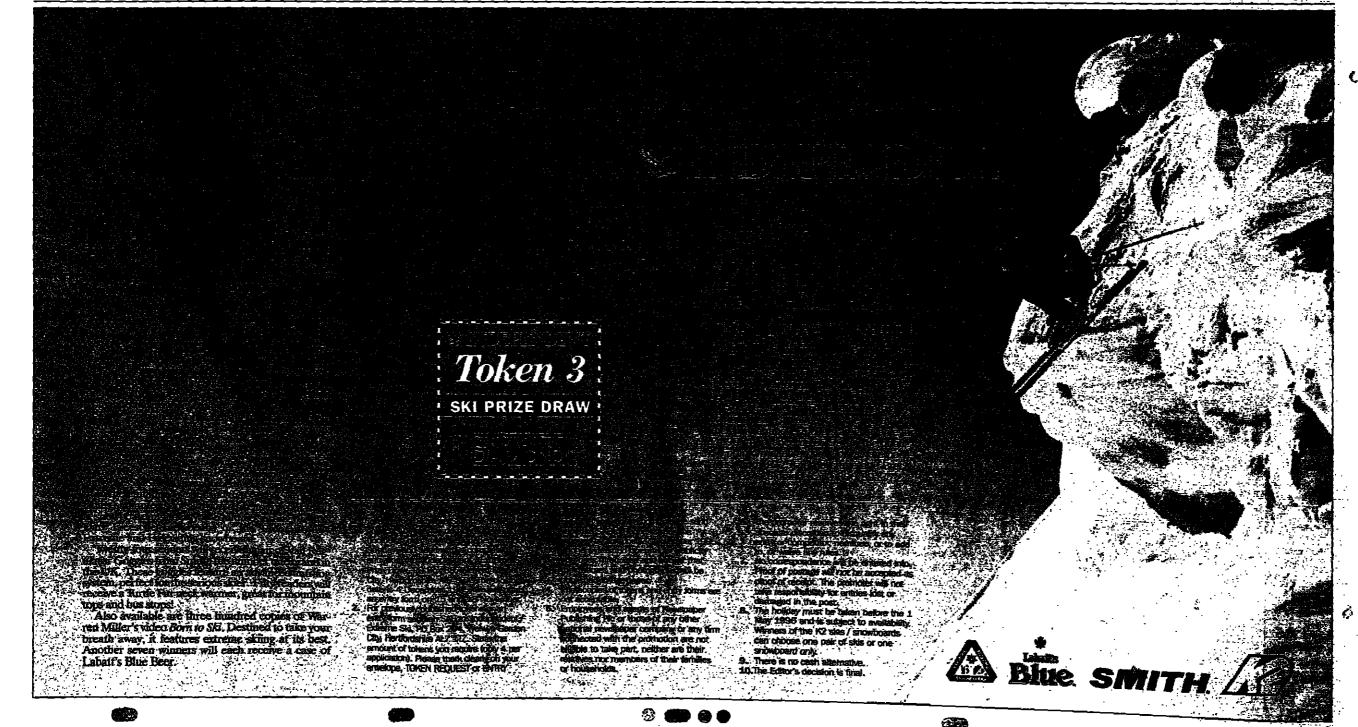
Green membership is soaring, up by 10 per cent last year, but at 44,000 is not enough to compete with their bigger rivals. "We have problems at the local Volmer said. "Our activists get

to a movement that must stay close to its roots to survive. Despite their more mature posture. the Greens have not lost a sense of fun, or their earnest fanaticism about ecology, minorities and women. Other parties have encroached on these issues, but only the Greens

carry conviction with the voters. This could change if the party gets into national government. From the Green point of view, that would require the

successful at elections," Mr sent, but not too well. Mr elected, so there is no one left forming a coalition with Mr stabilised, because they are part of our Red-Green coalition project," he says.

The mathematics of a Red-Green victory in the general elections in 1998 are complex. The Social Democrats must take votes on the right from a popular Chancellor, and leave the left flank unguarded. The odds are stacked against such a scenario, but the Greens have past. The rest is up to the SPD.



Should Shell bring the Nigerian government to heel? Can consumers force the company to act? Yvette Cooper reports

Can the people move an oil giant?

Shell's public relations team must be tearing their bair out. Just when the Brent Spar had finally dropped out of the headlines, up comes Nigeria, and Shell is in the firing line once more. Earlier this year Greenpeace brought Shell to its knees over the disposal of an oil storage buoy in the Atlantic, And the execution of nine minority rights activists in Nigeria last week provoked allegations that Shell, the siggest multinational in the country, had supported a brutal military

These are trying times for multi-national companies. They are expected to operate according to the highest environmental and ethical standards no matter where in the world they are based. And, suddenly, they are being called upon to intervene and make judgements on the local politics of the countries in which they work. Last week, Anita Roddick wrote in a letter to the Financial Times that Shell should condemn the execution of the activist Ken Saro-Wiwa. "What power can stop it?", wrote Ms Roddick. "Shell can stop it."

Of course, Shell could never be a Body Shop. Oil and natural resource companies are not like traders. They cannot make and break contracts at

Oil companies' power peaks when revenue from natural resources becomes the regime's only remaining support

the drop of an executioner's axe. Energy projects can take years to plan and years to complete, and it can be decades before you get a return on your investment. Shortterm political demonstrations are simply not an option.

But alongside the limits on their freedom to manoeuvre, oil companies also have greater power and greater responsibility. Their power peaks precisely when a government and an economy are in trouble - and the revenue from natural resources becomes the only remaining support Aut the : izime. Kight now, the oil Elf. Agip and other oil multinationals are helping the Nigerian military government to survive.

At the same time, oil companies are often more deeply involved with dupious governments than other kinds of companies ever need to be. As their work involves extracting and exploiting a country's natural resources, they are inevitably drawn into joint ventures with government. Shell works closely alongside Elf and Agip in joint ventures with the government-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation

In 1989, 150 tons of announced its enezuelan crude oil withdrawai from Burma. eaked into the Mersey The company said it from a Shell pipeline, was for purely causing a 20-mile stick commercial reasons and killing 300 sea Abirds. The incident cost but others have contended that lits AFRICA the company £14m in operational losses decision was backed Shell's The United infiluenced by the Nations and Opec plans to dump the autocratic nature of and clean-up called for a boycett, of oil supplies in the Brent Spar oil platform in 6,000 feet of rater off the Outer charges, and in 1990 Shell was fined £1m. the regime and its human rights record Eighties, but Shell Five tons of crude decided not to pull out of liebrides. But the oil seeped into the its mining, chemicals and company caved in under Mersey in 1990 petroleum-related pressure from Greenpeace in June. incustnes in South Africa. It argued that its Come September, employees did not suffer racial apologised for discrimination MOUNTAINS despite reports to amount of oil left the contrary from Eiris, the UK ethical inside. The Spar is in CRUSING manufactured environmental a Norwegian fjord pesticides and damage through oil while companies herbicides on a US spills in the area suggest ways of Army site near Denver mabited by the Ogoni disposing of it where nerve gas had been made. In 1970, the US Army tribe, but it will go ahead with a £2.7bn gas investment project. About 14 per cent of Shell's global oil warned. Shell that it would be liable for 85 per cent of the costs of cleaning it up. Shell sued its production comes from Nigeria insurers in 1983 for its share of the costs. Six years later, the company's appeal against state jury ruling that the insurers were not Shell's great liable was dilemmas

(NNPC). These international companies are also inevitably affected by the Nigerian government's failure to revenues from operations by Shell, standards, and by its inability to broker a compromise between oil interests and local farmers who are so dis-

rupted by exploration. In Nigeria, opposition to the gov-ernment and opposition to Shell have become intertwined. Ken Saro-Wiwa called on Shell to pay \$10bn compensation to the Ogoni people for alleged environmental damage to their homeland. Given that Shell's actions were central to Saro-Wiwa's protests, the company was bound to come under pressure to condemn his executioners.

Two questions arise out of this

crisis for Shell in Nigeria. First, how much should we expect multinationals to do in the cause of human rights? Second strong enough and sufficiently determined to make them act ethically?

Clearly, big companies have a responsibility to avoid being party to corrupt deals or violent and oppressive government action. Where a national government is unable or unwilling to implement adequate environmental standards, it is wrong for a multinational to take advantage of the situation and blithely ollute the country.
That said, it is often difficult to

know how effective businesses can be when they intervene in politics and human rights. Although outright

sanctions and disinvestment were effective in South Africa's case, a few public condemnations from Shell about the Nigerian dictatorship

the military government's belligerent behaviour. These ethical dilemmas may be taken out of Shell's hands. If international governments decide to impose an oil embargo, then Shell has no choice but to get out of Nigeria. Meanwhile, Shell and others will be weighing up how their losses in the outraged Western consumer markets

might not make much difference to

tional pressure groups to publicise nours, the way a com behaves in one market is vulnerable to consumer boycotts in another.

The phenomenon of ethical consumption has been growing for years. It dates back to the student boycotts of Barclays because of the bank's links with apartheid, campaigns against Nestlé over baby milk formulae, and the legal battle for compensation in thalidomide cases. According to recent research by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, three out of five consumers say they are prepared to boycott firms or stores over their ethical standards. balance against their continued prof- At the same time, ethical investors

its in Nigeria. In a global market with are flexing their muscles across an international media and internagovernance consultancy launched in 1986, advises on ethical investments and has clients worth more

tasteful companies, it encourages

them to buy shares and change the companies' policies. It took 20 years of campaigning to get Barclays out of South Africa. Yet it took only months of protest from Greenpeace to get Shell to back down on the Brent Spar. The next few months will reveal whether the latest outcry against Shell is little more than noise. It may be that consumers really have become an irresistible force.

The Ogoni operation

Chell, the world's largest oil commaelstrom of protests after the execution at the weekend of the Nigerian writer Ken Saro-Wīwa and eight fellow political activists.

The political impasse posed by Nigeria's military government represents a public relations nightmare for Shell, which is accused by environmentalists of having polluted the Ogoni region. The executed men had been campaigning for a greater share of oil revenue from the government, political self-determination and ownership of the oil beneath the land.

In some countries, notably Germany, protesters have accused the Anglo-Dutch conglomerate of being partly guilty for the executions because of its close involvement with Nigeria's military regime. Demonstrations in this country have closed a number of Shell petrol stations.

The Shell Development Company of Nigeria, a unit of the Royal Dutch Shell Group, has been involved in Nigeria for almost 60 years and, if its recent statements are to be believed, it will continue to produce oil in Africa's most populous country for decades to come.

Oil revenues provide about 90 per cent of Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings and some 80 per cent of the federal government's total revenue

Shell's production of about 300,000 barrels of oil each day represents 14 per cent of its worldwide production of crude oil. The company produces about half of Nigeria's oil in partnership with the government and with Agip of Italy and Elf of France. Shell has said it is still interested in going ahead with a £2.7bn gas investment project. The company is due to make a decision before the end of the year about whether or not to proceed. The Prime Minister, John Major, says he wants to talk to Shell about its plans.

Analysts say Shell's operations in Nigeria are not very profitable in global terms. It is believed that Shell is making about \$1/2m per day there. This might sound like a fortune but in oil terms it is considered modest. Last year Shell made a net profit of nearly £4bn; that is the equivalent of about £11m per day.

The company is committed to returning to the Ogoni region but only if it can do so peacefully. It stopped operating in the area in Jan uary 1993, having endured threats. than £70bn. Instead of telling intimidation and physical violence investors to get out of certain disagainst local staff.

Shell accepts that its operations in Ogoniland have caused some environmental problems but, in the words of a company spokesman.

"these do not add up to devastation". Shell is funding a \$4.5m environmental study of the Ogoni region in an effort to determine the extent to which the company is responsible for damage to the land. The study will be conducted by a group of international consultants and is due to start next year. David Orr

Diary

DAVID LISTER

Even for a master of the art of public relations, this assignment is a toughie.

The government of Nigeria is looking for a PR company that will help improve its image in Britain, and advise on the transition to democracy. And not any old PR company, and advise on the transmon to democracy. And not any old PR company. The Nigerian High Commissioner has approached Sir Tim Bell, former adviser to Margaret Thatcher and the man famously responsible for the David Mellor and family photocali.

A photocall that would present General Sani Abacha and his military junta A photocall that would present General Sani Abacha and his military junta in a favourable light was too daunting a prospect even for a man of Sir Tun's talents. He tells me that his agency, Lowe Bell, has turned down the High Commissioner's request. "We advise on general elections all over the place, but we felt anable to represent the Nigerian government," he said. An outbreak of scruples in public relations, or a recognition that some clients of his an image problem? I leave you to indee have too big an image problem? I leave you to judge.

David Hockney's best piece of performance art for years - his hourlong press conference at the Royal Academy where he held up a reproduction of an 18th-century painting of a semi-naked child and dared Scotland Yard to come and arrest him - will have a follow-up performance, I gather.

Hockney's anger over the arrests of Julia Somerville and Jeremy Dixon for taking photographs of her daughter naked in the bath has provoked the increasingly shy, increasingly reclusive and increasingly deaf artist to ask for a public plauform to challenge Parliament, Scotland Yard and Boots the Chemist. He intends to give a public lecture at the



Royal Academy in the new year calling on Parliament to change the laws covering photography. It will be one of the first times that the Royal Academy has taken a political stand on art since Sir Joshua Reynolds was asked to advise Parliament about pictures in the 18th century.

It is unlikely though that Hockney would want a similar role for himself. He remains attached to life in the Hollywood hills, and so hates the bustle of London that when flying to see his 95-year-old mum in Bridlington, he flies from LA to Amsterdam and then back to Humberside airport to avoid having to set foot in the metropolis or its

I worry that I am a jinx on the English National Opera. A dozen or so years ago I attended a performance of Rigoletto in which the chap playing the title role lost his voice mid-way and an Italian baritone was found who stood on the stage singing the role in Italian while the rest of the cast acted and sang around him in English. Surreal stuff.

Rut not as surreal as last Friday night when Louise Winter, playing Carmen in Jonathan Miller's ENO production, lost her voice after the second act and a former Carmen, Sally Burgess, was spied in the audience and persuaded to come on stage and sing the part. This she did, in French -

she has just played the part at the Met in New York, while Miss Winter remained on stage to provide the action, and mime to English words that weren't being sung. It reminded me of a vintage Top Of The Pops. A shamefully unaesthetic and

nercenary side of me wondered what it takes to cajole an off-duty diva on a night out with hubby, and in casual clothes, to come on stage for the last act and take part in a production she has never seen in front of 2,600 people. A world tour with Pavarotti? A contract to sing at the next royal wedding? £506? Pm happy to say that the latter at least is more or less what Miss Burgess did get, a full performance see for her one act of bravery. And well deserved, too.

My shoes are scuffed, my toes are bruised; I have a nosebleed and I am off to the dry cleaners. Fellow Britpop admirers will recognise me as an Óasis fan.

I attended the world's larges indoor concert, standing with 19,000 or so others in the arena at Earl's Court. More accurately, I stood; the other 18,999 pogoed. This means that the entire audience jumps up and down on the spot, in most cases while holding pints of beer. The origin of this new listening aid is unclear; but it does demand great skills of balance, and some balletic prowess. Those attending Oasis gigs later this month should be warned that Britpop fans do not possess this agility. And attending a pop concert now is only slightly less dangerous than when Rolling Stones gigs were patrolled by the Hell's Angels.

If you can't join them, upstage them. Norman Lamont will not have much chance of standing in the front row to listen to the Queen's Speech tomorrow, so he has decided to make himself. He will launch his book. Sovereign Britain, a titillating title which is actually a collection of speeches and articles with a Union Fing design on the front. To imagine that it might overshadow the other news event of the day takes, shall we say, admirable self confidence.

Here is a question for all GCSE and A-level students. What is a Honeywagon? This imaginationboggling vehicle was used on the set of the new James Bond film, Goldeneye. A BBC schools programme looks at the making of the

Bond film, and an appendix in the study guide lists the facilities needed for the production unit. Among these is "I x Honeywagon ready on location at 06.30". Is this where Pierce Brosnan and his female co-stars get to know each other before a day's shooting, or is it perhaps a leftover prop from the last Winnie The Pooh film? Well, in a way. It is, says United International Pictures, the portable loo. It's good to know that even the mobile toilet staff on the set are

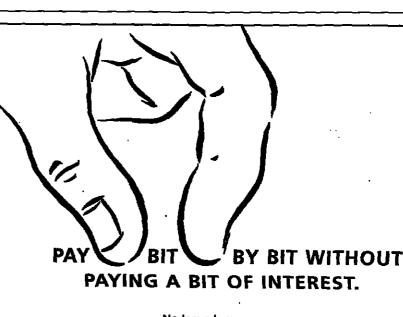
Eric Clapton was in melancholic mood as he received the special merit award at the Q magazine awards last week. He arrived hotfoot from receiving his OBE from the Queen to find be had won one of the top rock prizes.

infected by the Bond glamour ethos.

But as he received it, he mused, stony-faced, about magazines in general. "I don't like reading magazines," he affirmed in an angstridden mumble, "They make me feel less than', make me feel I have to compete." If a man who had just come from Buckingham Palace and whose fans nickname him God has an inferiority complex, what hope is there for the rest of us?



Even 'God' feels small



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The CBI's place in the middle

The Confederation of British Industry is wobbling precariously along a political fence, between the Tory government and what many businessmen privately acknowledge looks increasingly like a Labour administration in waiting. So far it has done well to prevent Tory businessmen, as well as politicians from either side, pushing it off, either to left or to right.

The CBI cannot afford to offend the government in power, not only because ministers still have their hands on the levers that matter but also because an influential body of members quite clearly wants its organisation to take sides, by acknowledging that business's real friends are the Tories. Politically committed members will regard neutrality as next to treachery. As the election approaches, the pressure on the CBI to come out more clearly in favour of the Government will be enormous. Probably as a response to too many headlines last week about the CBI cosying up to the Opposition, Sir Bryan Nicholson, president of the CBI, went out of his way on Sunday to dismiss the idea of partnership with Labour, describing what is going

on as just a dialogue.
But then dialogue is what this has been about all along, not phoney partnerships of the type Labour has claimed with BT. No sensible lobbying body with the interests of its members at heart can contemplate any other course than finding out what Labour policies are, and then do its best to influence them.

In speeches in Birmingham this week. the CBI has been throwing bricks at both sides. It is bitterly critical of the damage likely to be done to business by the Government's squabbling over Europe, wary of the Chancellor in case he gives away too

much in the Budget, and particularly con-cerned that he is relying on the Private Finance Initiative as a fig-leaf to cover cuts in public spending on infrastructure, which directly affects members' order books. Equally, the employers intensely dislike Labour's minimum wage and its intention to sign up to the European Social Chap-ter: they are reassured by Tony Blair's comforting words on inflation and taxation policy and his backing for high rewards for success in business, which he took a step further vesterday, to resounding applause from the conference. But they wonder whether good intentions will survive the stresses and strains of government, and whether the small print of the policies, which Mr Blair skirts round, will reveal something scarier.

Throughout the Eighties the CBI was in the wilderness, partly because of the bareknuckle fights promised at its 1981 con-ference, when recession was battering its members; equally, the Government's policy for industry was long centred on shift-ing the balance of power away from the unions. There was not much left for the CBI to lobby about. That has changed, both at the level of detailed policies for industry -Michael Heseltine reinvented the Department of Trade and Industry when he was there - and in the debates about government spending, taxation and Europe.

By occupying the middle ground - what is left of it now that Labour has moved closer to the centre - the CBI is in a position to influence events in a way it has not experienced since the days of beer, sandwiches and corporatism in the Seventies. It would be foolish indeed of the employers to come off the political fence and

The agony of **Ecstasy**

I take it. That much now seems to be beyond dispute. One moment on Saturday night. Leah Bett was enjoying her 18th birthday party; the next, she had collapsed simply be driven further underground. However infrequently such events take place, no one any longer can regard this as simply a "happy drug" with no ill-effects.

But what should be done about Ecstasy? It is a class "A" drug, bracketed with heroin and cocaine. Suppliers face jail and anyone caught using it can expect a criminal record. Many people, horrified by this most recent tragedy, will now call for a crackdown, including longer prison

sentences. This is an understandable response. But it is not the answer. Ecstasy is the biggest recreational drug to have hit Britain since cannabis. Thousands of young people take it to get the high-energy effect that is so well-suited to dance culture. Most people who use it do so with no

apparent side-effects. They are not much influenced by the pleadings of parents or teachers. Leah Betts' stepmother had warned her against taking drugs. As a nurse. Mrs Betts is aware of the possible dangers, as is her husband, a retired police inspector. And their daughter may well have been conscious of the risks she was running. She was studying chemistry, biology and psychology, and so was no stranger to the

effects of pharmaceuticals.

The drug Ecstasy can kill those who cannot be wished away. The authorities would catch a few people by raiding dance raves. But a clampdown would mean that the supply of Ecstasy would

an outcome would only make matters worse, placing young people in even greater danger from unscrupulous dealers and the adulterated drugs they supply. Suppliers would continue selling tablets that are mixed with binding agents ranging from dog-worming drugs to aquarium cleaner.

Young people such as Leah Bett need to be protected. The way to do that is to understand what they are consuming and control its quality. Ecstasy must be brought within the law. That may mean making it a substance whose use is frowned upon, but not criminalised: like smoking or parking on double yellow lines.

Such an attitude would also make it casier to ensure that when people use Ecstasy they take it in as safe circumstances as possible. Since heat stress and dehydration are important factors in a number of tragedies, clubs where people take Ecstasy would, for example, have to be properly ventilated and offer a plentiful supply of cold water.

This is the sensible, thoughtful approach to saving lives threatened by drugs. Few politicians seem willing to put such proposals forward. But if they really care about the dangers drug users like Leah Betts face, they should be coura-This case demonstrates that Ecstasy geous and speak out.

ANOTHER VIEW Dick van den Broek

Why Shell should stay put

In the great wave of understandable emotion that has swept the world over the death of Ken Saro-Wiwa, it's very easy for clear thinking to be swamped by anger and recriminations. Here are some facts. First, did the "discreet diplomacy" of President Mandela and others fail? Perhaps we should ask instead whether the worldwide protests failed. Our experience suggests that this kind of diplomacy offered the best hope for Ken Saro-Wiwa. But as worldwide threats and protests increased, the Nigerian government position appeared to harden. As Wura Abiola, daughter of the imprisoned unofficial winner of the last Nigerian presidential election, said on Newsnight: "The regime does not react well to threats. I lieve that this is the way of showing they will not listen to threats." Did the protesters understand the risk they were taking? Did the protest become more impor-

tant than the purpose? There have been charges of environmental devastation. But the facts of the situation have often been distorted or ignored.

There are certainly environmental problems in the area, but the World Bank confirmed that population growth, deforestation, soil erosion and overfarming are also major environmental problems there.

In fact, Shell is spending US\$100m this year alone on environmental projects and US\$20m on roads, health clinics, schools, scholarships, water schemes and

agricultural support projects to help the people of the region. But another problem is sabotage. In the

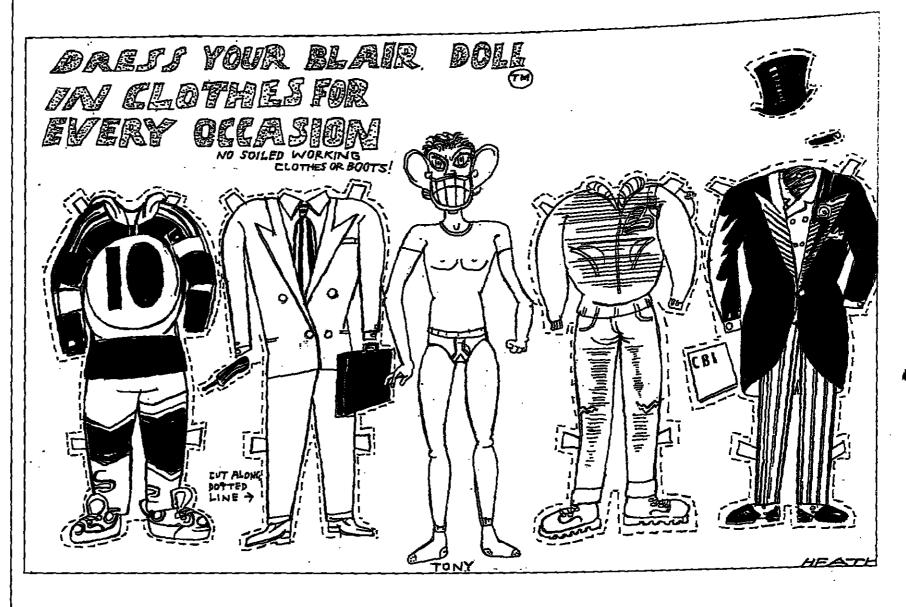
Ogoni area - where Shell has not operated since 1993 - more than 60 per cent of oil spills have been caused by sabotage. usually linked to claims for compensation. And when contractors have tried to deal with these problems, they have been forcibly detried access.

It has also been suggested that Shell should pull out of Nigeria's Liquefied Nat-ural Gas project. But let's be clear who gets hurt if the project is cancelled. Not this Nigerian government. Revenues

won't start flowing until the next century. But a cancellation would hurt the thousands of Nigerians who will be working on the project and the tens of thousands more benefiting in the local economy. The environment too would suffer, with the plant expected to cut greatly the need for gas flaring in the oil industry. It is Nigeria's long-term future that will pay the price - the Nigerian government of the early 21st century which should be seeing revenues beginning to flow from that investment, contributing to the rebuild-

ing of the country. It is easy enough to sit in our comfort-able homes in the West, calling for sanctions against a Third World nation. But you have to be sure that knee-jerk reactions won't do more harm than good.

The writer is Shell's regional co-ordinator with responsibility for Africa.



- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

The 'tough' approach to youth unemployment | Of cabbages and future kings

From Dr Dan Finn

Sir. Your endorsement of Gordon Brown's "tough" approach towards the young unemployed ("Labour gets it right on jobs", 10 November) is misconceived, as is the shadow Chancellor's decision to undermine the overall value of his proposals by linking Labour's package to explicit new benefit

While it may help Labour win some Tory votes, the stress on sanctions sends the wrong message to the unemployed and to those working to create highquality opportunities for them. Forcing people on to programmes simply to protect their benefit payments, and where their psychological motivation will be close to zero, will not help them to get jobs. It will in fact reinforce the deep scepticism young about the purpose and value of government schemes.

Gordon Brown's package is a long way short of the "most ambitious attempt vet" to tackle youth unemployment you describe. At best it is a modest, if welcome, extension of the opportunities that already exist for those out of

Finally, it has been profoundly dispiriting to see senior Labour shadow ministers scoring cheap points by peddling gross stereotypes about the young unemployed. This has given a green Security.

light to those advocating a work- From Mr Don Macdonald fare regime and has done serious damage to the hard-won credibility of many in the Labour Party who have worked to protect high-quality programmes for the unemployed. Yours sincerely.

Dan Finn Stockport, Greater Manchester 10 November

Sir: If "new" Labour is to be "forced labour", it might consider using imprisonment as a sanction rather than withdrawal of benefits. Imprisonment, unlike withdrawal of benefits, is subject to the legal requirement of due process, and this would give people an opportunity to show good cause why they should not take the medicine that Gordon Brown

Imprisonment, unlike withdrawal of benefits, does not force those subjected to it to make an instant choice between starvation and crime. Perhaps Labour could also tell us why, if their new policy is so good, only the under-25s are to be allowed to benefit from it? Yours sincerely,

Russell House of Lords London, SW1 10 November The writer is the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Social

vate sector employers can also be a very useful boost for employment for the under-25s, particularly if training is provided and

There is great benefit also in ing inter-departmental restrictions, such as the 16-hour rule, by which Employment Service staff discourage young people from following training courses, as they are not available for work, while other government-funded agencies try to encourage the same young people to join in training.

Yours sincerely, DON MACDONALD Chief Executive Fover Federation for Youth London, E1 10 November

Sir. You are right to support Labour's proposals to cope with youth unemployment. The pro-posals are similar to the Community Programme from the Eighties, which was real job creation, with unreasonable pay levels, not necessarily at full rates, but high enough to attract both the participants themselves, the agencies in which they worked and the training agents. all of whose participation is

The proposed subsidy to prithe lessons from those Workstart pilots that were successful are

A woman's place in the supermarket

From Ms Beverley Beckett Sir: As someone whose life has been influenced by the writing of Germaine Greer. I was rather surprised to read her article ("Never glad confident Sains-bury's again", 10 November). In it, the woman who so fiercely championed women's rights in The Female Eunuch self-importantly declares herself, as a wage-earner, "working woman", while dismissively lumping all other women (presumably including those with babies and small toddlers, whom she finds so irritating for taking up the parking spaces by the entrance, and cluttering it up with their specialneeds trolleys) into the category of "fun-loving leisure shoppers" who do nothing but obstruct her

on her busy way. Silly me never to have previ-ously relished shopping at Sains-bury's with my toddler as a fun leisure activity. A previous wageearner, who is presently committed to caring on a full-time basis for a small daughter, I was enlightened to find that, exhausted though I may be at the end of each day, I am not a working woman and certainly never in a hurry at the supermarket.

The Zoo and BSE

Sir. Hazel Lye's letter (25 Octo-ber) asks whether animals bred

by London Zoo and released

into the Middle East and Africa

could be contaminated with BSE.

This is an issue which we take very seriously, particularly as mis-information on the subject can

have long-term and damaging

consequences.
The Scimitar-horned oryx sent

to Tunisia in 1985 were not bred

by us, although we co-ordinated

the project from the British side.

These animals are contained

within a fenced reserve and there

From Ms Alexandra Dixon

BEVERLEY BECKETT Claydon, Oxfordshire 10 November From Ms Anne Greenridge Sir: Three cheers for Germaine

Is this post-feminism? Or is it

a profoundly fertility-denying.

anti-child society, expressing her own distaste and hostility towards

children's very presence in pub-

Sainsbury's - or should I just stay

lic places like supermarkets?

at home?

Yours sincerely.

Greer for voicing opinions about Sainsbury's with which I wholeheartedly agree. Our local Sainsbury's began life innocently enough in the 1980s, being cautiously welcomed

by residents. But with a toe-hold in the neighbourhood, it grew, buying up the local car park and adjacent hospital land until the whole village was Sainsbury's. This once charming locality has now become a choked, heaving traffic nightmare. Acres of parking, signs siphoning the

and there has been to our certain

knowledge absolutely no sign of

BSE. However, because we are

just as concerned as everyone else

(if not more so), we decided

three years ago not to export any

more oryx from the UK until the

dead before ever placing the first simply the woman who, in Ser and Destiny, criticised the West as own-brand item in the trolley. And life without Sainsbury's? Good food is certainly to be had elsewhere, with very much more

route, compulsory entry through

a Sainsbury's newspaper con-course; the customer is brain-

time left to enjoy it Yours faithfully, Anyway, must dash: I hear ANNE GREENRIDGE there's a free cheese-tasting on at Orpington, Kent

> From Mr Tom Tickell Sir: My mentally-handicapped daughter and I feel very guilty that we may contribute to delaying Germaine Greer when she goes shopping in Sainsbury's. I am sure that women with children, and pensioners, will have just the same reactions.

Of course, she needs a special parking slot - as do all the other busy working women who are members of the new mistress race.

The puzzle is why Ms Green has to go into Sainsbury's to look for pasta that she knows she can only find elsewhere. But I suppose that if you are quite such a busy working woman as she is you never have a moment to think. Yours faithfully, TOM TICKELL 10 November

shopper along a pre-ordained is no reported evidence, 10 years epidemiology of the disease i

later, of BSE. Of the reintroducbetter understood. tion programmes in the Middle With regard to the gazelle East, only the Arabian oryx pro-ject in Saudi Arabia received any releases, contrary to some of the press reports these animals were animals from the UK. These all born in Saudi Arabia to aniwere exactly three in 1989 - all mals that had never left Saudi males who were identified as Arabia. This was made absolutely important genetic stock. None of the UK animals has been clear in the press release. BSE has never been found in gazelles released into the wild, their progin any case. Yours faithfully, eny are known and monitored

ALEXANDRA DIXON Director Conservation and Consultancy The Zoological Society of London London, NW1

From Mr George Walden Sir: In his kind report of my Booker speech in Saturday's Independent, John Walsh said I had described British culture as a "vegetating catastrophe". This is not so. What I said was that a French writer (Celine) had once described Russia in that perceptive phrase. I went on:

The British do not go in for catastrophes. We are content to vegetate. And as long as you vegetate you are staving off cata-

The distinction, if you are the cabbage in question, is important. Of my attack on nostalgia, Mr Walsh says that a return to the past can be a search for meaning. He is clearly right; not to understand that would be to overlook one of the sources of the Renais- MP for Buckingham (Con) sance. He also makes an excel- House of Commons lent point about the cramping

fiction, which I wish I had included in my speech.

What I criticised specifically

were the Prince of Wales's pastiche villages, nationalist politicians trying to revive long-dead enemies, costume dramas on TV, our reversion to a tired form of modernism (brilliant in its day) in art, and the sort of historical biographer who informs us excitedly

that they had sex then too.

I hope Mr Walsh agrees that there is little new meaning to be had from such sources, which are part of the national escapism so evident in our politics. Perhaps that is why Virginia Bottomley looked so displeased at my speech? Yours faithfully,

GEORGE WALDEN effect of journalism on modern 11 November

From Mr Roger Bannister

Sir: Your editorial about the elec-

tion of Rodney Bickerstaffe as

general scretary of Unison dis-

played a lack of understanding of

developments in the trade union

member of Militant Labour, I

have come to expect attacks from

the newspapers of the capitalist

class (you are not that "Indepen-

dent" after all). But to refer to the

general secretary election as "tes-

timony to the shallowness of the

You apparently mean that no

candidate in the election

reflected John Monks' 'new

thinking", by which I presume

you include the opposition to

strikes, and his policy of putting

Tories on TUC platforms. But

where is this "new thinking"

now? Opposition to the pro-Tory

stance was such that the first time

a prominent Tory spoke on a

The 1994 TUC Congress met

against the background of the sig-

naiworkers' strike, and on the eve

of the 1995 Congress, John

Monks himself threatened the

Tories with industrial militancy if

they continued attacks on work-

ers. I think it was Captain Black-

adder who was forced to ask

"Do you visit the planet earth

much?", a question which is

appropriate to put to your leader

National Executive Council

The writer was the Campaign for

a Fighting, Democratic Unison candidate in the election for Uni-

writer.

Yours faithfully,

ROGER BANNISTER

Member, Unison

10 November

9 November

Kirkby, Merseyside

son general secretary.

TUC platform was the last.

our 1.4 million members.

Criticism ignores Unison's skills

From Mr Kevan Kelson Sir: Your scathing criticism of Unison (Who's afraid of Rodmovement. As a socialist and ney?, 8 November) is wholly unjustified. To suggest that Rod-ney Bickerstaffe – and by extension Unison - is "a leader of the old school, a product of declining culture" is not borne out by an range of candidates in the Unison analysis of Unison's internal organisation, its progressive aims and values or most significantly union's gene pool" is an insult to its dynamic campaigning approach at local, regional and

This was most visibly demonstrated on 27 October by the Public Service not Private Sleaze" national event; but perhaps the best example of Unison's strategic approach of allying service users, community organisations and public service trade unionists is our work in Northern Ireland, where the skilful deployment of resources and enabling support to disenfranchised groups has led to Unison securing an influence far beyond its membership size.

national level.

Rodney Bickerstaffe has been instrumental in these developments and far from the union's leadership policing members on behalf of government (Labour or other), Unison will continue to campaign robustly to defend and extend public services, as well as the pay and conditions of workers employed in them.

Kevan Kelson Branch Secretary St Helens Metropolitan Branch St Helens

Merseyside 10 November

Dodging his duty

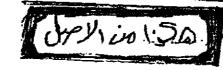
From Mr Edward McCabe Sir: Colin Powell has managed to maintain a highly favourable image in the press, at home and abroad. But I think the time has come to find fault with him.

He could have done so much good. But instead of sacrificing himself, he has sacrificed the cause of the entire black com-

munity in America. Never has one man failed to do so much for

Bill Clinton has been dubbed a coward for dodging the draft, but in this instance it is the military man who is the wimp. Yours sincerely, EDWARD MCCABE West Bromwich, West Midlands

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Whart, London El4 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent co.ak) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters. Back issues of the Independent available from Historic Newspapers, 0800 906609.



Tony Blair's new moral imperative

Can the Labour leader make the right judgements on what the party's values should be?

Tony Blair lectures the readers of the right-wing Mail on Sunday about the need to "rediscover our traditional British values". Jack Straw charles his fiel at our discoverage with the straw of the str shakes his fist at our disorderly streetculture and warns that he's going to get tough on truants' parents. David Blunkett unveils plans to give alien-ated inner-city kids moral role-models. Hardly a day passes without more evidence of this new tone from Labour - not so much straws in the wind as whole haystacks in a hurricane.

In his biography of Blair, my colleague John Rentoul describes the Labour leader's philosophy as social moralism. Some Labour MPs and left-wing opinion-formers have ruder epithets for what they regard as a wild and worrying lurch into moral-majority populism. But it's impossible to judge Labour's new value-loaded language without looking backwards. For it is at least arguable that Blair is returning to the origins of progressive politics, not breaking away from them.
In its heyday, the socialist project

promised to swamp "bourgeois morality". Individuals were all actors in a class drama, helpless agents of History. Left-wing politicians didn't discuss the behaviour of people, particularly poorer people; that was strictly for the priests and the reactionaries. In this way, the left found itself speaking a different language from voters. Fixated by the moral grandeur of its vision, its values and the ordinary, workaday values of the people it hoped to represent drifted steadily apart.

Now that the millenarial vision has collapsed, the whole structure of left-of-centre thought is changing, too. The disappearance of the Marxvalues. In one way, this is a harsher world; one in which there are fewer

But the idea that to use traditional moral language makes you a right-winger would have startled every pre-Marxist generation of radicals. The puritanism of early trade unionists and socialists, the high moral tone of the first generations of feminists; the cross-over between the temperance movement and socialism; the championing of thrift and hard work among the self-organised working class friendly societies; the austere Liberal moralism still present in Beveridge's blueprints for post-1945 Britain - all these are reminders of the way in which personal morality and politics

used to mingle for the left. This doesn't mean that we are inevitably returning to Victorian values because they are essential, unal-terable truths. Morality is as fluid as anything else in human society. Our codes are vastly different from those of the 19th century. They would be horrified by our sex-obsession and by our puritanism about food, tobacco and health. Tony Blair regards homophobes with the same disdain his predecessors would have reserved for homosexuals. When Enoch Powell asks, as he did in a weekend television portrait, "what's wrong with racism?" he makes a value-judgement which was near-universal in 1890, unexceptional in 1930 and is unacceptable

today. And so on. Each moralism has its excesses -



Columnist of the Year

He knows you cannot be a moralist who only looks downwards

moral codes always do - but they are enormously far apart. The Victorians hid table-legs; we consider it polite to keep an expression of pleased interest in place as we inspect colour photo-images of human turds on display in an art gallery. Different times, different quirks.

What unites them, however, is a similar array of problems caused by technological and economic change – and a similar underlying assumption that these cannot be solved by political change alone. Carlyle's "Condition of England question" is back; huge disparities of wealth, ghetto poverty, delinquency, illiteracy, addiction and violent crime stalk our country too, if not on a 19th-century scale.

A political language that didn't involve moral judgements about individual behaviour would not begin to address this. But that doesn't imply an ethical consensus, any more than it did when Gladstone was outraged about

Disraeli and vice-versa. Blair's moral language, however harshly it reverber-ates in the ears of middle-class intelligentsia, is distinctively different from

fory moral populism. It offers a choice. First, that there is still a values gap between the parties about sex and race. Politicians on the right say things, though mostly in private, about gays and about blacks, that would be taboo on the left. The left is far less ready to blame people or abuse them for things they cannot help. The only recent change is that, with Blair, the definition of what people "cannot help" is

narrowing. Second, Labour moralism claims to have no favourites - to be genuinely One Nation. There is nothing more damaging to the authority of Tory ministers than the belief that strictures about dependency or the virtue of family life are intended for you down there but not for us up here - that, to put it brutally, morals are for losers.

Here is where Blairites need to be articularly careful. It isn't only that they need to embody some of the selfrestraint and decent austerity they speak for. It's also that their version of social morality, if it means anything, applies to some powerful forces in this

Take yesterday's encounter with the Confederation of British Industry. That the Labour leader is wooing the CBI is neither surprising nor shocking. That he is not to begin a fiscal assault on wealth-generators is mere economic realism. And that British industry itself is now studying the short-termism which the left has criticised for so long confirms it believes that Blair will soon be in power.

But there is a hidden argument to be had between new Labour and the CBL, and both know it perfectly well. Business still gives the impression of wanting a one-way deal with govern-ment: "Tax us less, regulate us less and then leave us alone. We don't want to talk about a minimum wage or employees' rights or overwork or

To any new Labour moralist, that must be an unsustainable position. It isn't compatible with the secure, welleducated and confident "stakeholder" society which Blair wants, and in vhich individuals all play their part. It is an attitude that would have stran-

gled the Factory Acts at birth.

A country divided between the poor and workless and a driven, exhausted class of workers too tired to be active citizens, or to talk to their children, or to upgrade their skills after work - that is not a plausible tomorrow. One day, if Labour is to exploit the moral authority it has been painfully accumulating, it has to start saying so. For the left, going "back to basics" also means this.

I think Blair is only beginning to find his true voice, that his radical ambition is still quietly uncoiling. For he knows that you can be a moralistic reformer - indeed, throughout most of human history reform and moral passion have been inseparable. But he also knows you cannot be a moralist who only looks downwards. The proper word for that is a bully. And you cannot be a moralist who is fierce only with the powerless. That would make you a coward. And whatever Blair is, or will become, he is neither

I am poor. It is of no interest to me.

What is of interest to me is that my

art should be able to alter the lives of

a large number of people, of a whole

community, of the entire country, so

that my literature has to be entirely

different. The stories that I tell must have a different sort of purpose from

the artist in the Western world and it

is not now an ego trip, you know, it is

politics, it is economics, it's every-thing, you know, and art, in that

instance becomes so meaningful both

to the artist and to the consumers of

that art, because you do not just

depend on them to read your books.

you even have to live their life that

they can emulate. The artist in that

'I think that the entire

international

community should

No speech like an old speech

A opposed schools of thought when it comes to preparing an after-dinner speech. There is the Clement Freud school of thought and the non-Clement Freud school of thought. I learnt this when as a young man I foolishly accepted an invitation to take part in a Cambridge Union debate.

There were good things in my speech but I didn't get it really right, and Clement Freud, a fellow-speaker, leant over to me afterwards and said: "If you'll take my advice, Miles, you won't bother to make up a speech every time. Just have one very good speech and always use that.

"But make sure you alter the opening and closing paragraph each time, to make it seem top-ical. If the start and close of a speech is geared to the actual occasion and the actual people present, then they will assume that the rest of the speech is the same, even though you delivered exactly the same stuff at Huddersfield the week before."

I was disposed to believe what Clement Freud said at the time, because I had just seen him in action at dinner. The young gentlemen of the Cam-bridge Union had taken us to eat at one of Cambridge's better hotels, and Clement Freud. during the soup course, had sent the toast back to the

"That's not what I would call melba," he said with silky danger in his voice. "Take it back and complete the

process."
By so doing he had upstaged all his hosts (who were obviously exercising insufficient toast quality control) and all his fellow guests, who were busy chomping away at insufficiently melba-ised toast.

A man who could do that must be right about the writing of speeches, mustn't he?

of speeches, mustn't he?

Well, up to a point, Lord Copper. In my limited experience, sometimes speech material that has done well before does well again and sometimes it horrendously doesn't. More often, alas, a speech that has been specially prepared for an occasion, and which can never be used again, is the only speech possible on that occasion. I have twice foolishly accepted invitations to address the Oxford Union, and on the second occasion my fellow speaker was the large, gangling actor Bernard Bresslaw, familiar to me from Carry On films. "Done this sort of thing

before?" I asked him. "Once," he told me. "I came to speak at the Oxford Union once before, and it was a disaster. You see, nobody had told me I would be making a speech. had assumed it was one of those celebrity do's where the audience asked you questions.

There are two diametrically So when it came to my turn to speak, I stood up and waited for the first question, and it never came, and I had nothing to say, and it was a nightmare. But I'm ready this time...'

When the time came he stood up and delivered a speech of such comic intensity, so full of Shakespearean overtones. that everyone assumed it was brilliant even though nobody (myself included) had the faintest idea what it was about. He had a standing ovation. Whether Bresslaw ever pub-

lished his speech, I don't know. You can only do this, of course. if you are not a product of the Clement Freud school of speech-writing.

Assuming that Clement Freud actually does what he told me to do, he is in the position of an old music-hall artist who could constantly reuse his best material as long as be didn't go on TV. Of course. speech-making doesn't go on TV. But it does get recycled as



articles. You sometimes read, at the end of pieces by famous people who don't really have time to write articles, the line: This article is based on the text of a speech delivered to the New York Society of Orthodontists on 23 November last year", and you think, "Well, fair enough - I would rather read this as an article than have to be an orthodontist in a bow-tie last November".

But I do know of a time when Kingsley Amis achieved the opposite - he got a speech into print before he made it. I once shared a literary lunch with him at Reading, and all we had to do was talk for a dozen minutes about our new books, but when he rose he told the aston-ished lunchers: "Look, I didn't have time to prepare anything interesting to say today, but I have just received the galley proofs of an article I've written for next week's Times Literary Supplement, which might interest you," and he dragged a long sheaf of printer's proofs out of his pocket, which he proceeded to read at high speed to the bemused audience before sitting down at high speed and ordering another drink.

I think it is safe to assume

that Kingsley Amis had never attended the Clement Freud school of speech-writing, This column is drawn from the text of a talk delivered to the Mururou Atoll Rotary Club.

ng u-wi-nd alf in-ed vir for

Executed Nigerian writer Ken Saro-Wiwa's final interview epitomised his 20-year campaign

The evil at the heart of Nigeria

Nigeria consists of 300 different peoples who were put together by the British. Although the country is a federation, ever since the military came into power its people have tried to turn this federation into a unitary system. Under this system, the major ethnic groups have cheated the smaller groups because 94per cent of the GNP of Nigeria is oil, and the oil lies pre-eminently in the Niger delta which is inhabited by the small groups. Ogoni country produces oil and has produced oil since 1958, but the Ogoni people have nothing to show

I want justice for the Ogoni people. I want self-determination for the

'Literature has to be combative. It must do something to transform lives'

Ogoni people. I want autonomy for the Ogoni people. This means that Ogoni political affairs will be run by Ogoni people. Ogoni economic resources will be used for the development of the Ogoni people. The Ogoni people will pay whatever they have to the federal government. They have responsibilities to keep the fed-

Over the past 33 years, the Ogoni country has been completely destroyed by the search for oil. If they have their own government, their own administration, they will be able to settle those laws and regulations that will control the rampaging oil companies. Oil blow-outs, spillages, oil slick and general pollution accompany the search for oil.

In most cases the oil companies have an obligation to ensure that these things do not happen. Unfortunately, they have not done these things in Nigeria. Oil companies have flared gas in Nigeria for the past 33 years causing acid rain. This is an area of very heavy rainfall. Acid rain then gets back into the soil, and what used to be the bread basket of the delta has now become totally infertile. This is the worst case of pollution I have seen in any part of the world where peo-

ple have prospected for oil. In Britain, Shell produces oil, but you look at the adverts - they are talking of keeping the valleys neat and clean so that human beings will not know that anything is going on there.



Ken Saro-Wiwa: you cannot begin to wonder whether you are going to be killed

In Ogoni, Shell pipelines are there for everyone to see. Because the government in Nigeria is colonial, as far as the ethnic minorities such as the Ogoni are concerned, the interests of Shell and of those who are running Nigeria at this time, mix I accuse Shell of racism because they are doing in Ogoni what they dare not do in Europe or America, where they

also prospect for oil. l am trying to mobilise opinion, par-ticularly in the West, among shareholders of Shell, among the govern-ments, the people of Europe, of Britain, of Germany, of France, of Italy - all those who prospect for oil, whose companies prospect for oil in Nigeria, to realise that they are ruining the environment and dehumanising the people. I believe that if the people knew what has been happening, they would do something about it and stop this robbery and murder

that is going on in broad daylight at the end of the 20th century.

All the oil that is produced in Nigeria is bought by America and the West and Japan. If they insisted, "Look, we are not going to buy this oil unless you ensure that the envi-ronment is protected, unless you ensure that rents and royalties are paid to the landlords - to the owners of the oil", it would be a different story

The profits from oil come to Britain because they sell the equipment. It is their technology that is keeping Nigerian oil going. It is, in fact, Western credit that is keeping Nigeria alive, so they have a moral responsibility to intervene in this situation. I have asked publicly that Nigeria be expelled from the United Nations because of its oppressive ways, because it has oppressed just too many Nigerians. The military governments of Nigeria

have sat on other Nigerians in a way that is just as evil and as bad as what was done in South Africa. In this country writers write to

entertain, they raise questions of individual existence - you know the angst of the individual - but for a Nigerian writer in my position you can't go into that. Literature has to be combative. You cannot have art for art's sake. This art must do something to transform the lives of a community, of a nation. And for that reason, literature has a different purpose altogether in that sort of society, completely different from here. And, you know, a writer doesn't earn money in Nigeria because although you have 100 million people, most of them cannot read and write here, so literature has a different purpose. So here I am - I have written 22 books, I have produced 150 episodes of one television programme, which everyone enjoys, but

disavow this genocide' society has a different role and, to my mind, a much more worthy role than the artist in the West.

When you are asking for the rights of the people, you cannot begin to wonder whether you are going to be killed or sent to jail or whatever, Right is right and it must be fought for. I have been at it for 20 years, and at this age, at this point in my life there's really nothing to fear. I think we have seen a lot of dictators collapse in the past and these ones are going to col-

lapse as well.

I believe that the British government, that the American government, the governments of the EC - all those who buy Nigerian oil – including the Japanese, and others, are encouraging genocide in Ogoni. I think that the entire international community should come forward to disavow this process of genocide. The UN views genocide as very serious crime. The fact that the ethnic majority in Nigeria colludes in genocide does not excuse it. I appeal to the entire international community to come to the help of Ogoni now, because if nothing is done, the Ogoni people are going to be extinct in no more than 10 years.

These extracts from an interview with Ken Saro-Wiwa, the last conducted before he was executed will be shown tonight on Without Walls: The Hanged Man - Nigeria's Shame' at 9.30pm on Channel 4.

by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

HAVE YOU GOT **WHAT IT** TAKES?

THINK [] CHOIR AMPLE [] REVEL GRAND[]DROLLZ PIVOT [] VAGUE SPACE [] BLESS EAGER [] HOVEL LOCAL [] MANOR

Place a letter between the words which, when substituted for the middle letter of each word either side, will create two other words. When all the letters have been found a word can be read downwards. What is the word?

> Get the answer right and we will send you a Certificate of Merit.

The answer is If you can solve this puzzle you could be eligible to join Mensa the high IQ tociety.
Cut the coupon for further details and a copy of the self - administered test. Post to : Messa, PREEPOST, Wolverhampton, WY2 IBR Address







Sir Robert Stephens

Whether Robert Stephens achieved greatness in the sense of half a century ago when the likes of Olivier, Richardson, Gielgud and Wolfit tackled the heroic parts in a stage tradition traceable to Henry Irving, or whether greatness was thrust upon him by admirers for his courage in returning to the classics in his sixties (as Falstaff and King Lear for the Royal Shakespeare Company), Stephens's do-or-die determination to be an actor in the heroic mould was never doubted in his last years.

It was as if he had cast himself among that generation of socalled hell-raising players -Richard Burton, Peter O Toole, Albert Finney, Nicol Williamson, whose talents burned so bright in the playhouse until the cinema claimed most of them except that Stephens could never claim great success in films. He would therefore prove that he at least had never turned away from the greatest test of all: the great roles in the theatre.

If he did not convince everyone of his greatness, he reminded a younger generation of playgoers of the guis, gusto, personality and bravado necessary to heroic acting in its heyday.

Nor did he neglect the supposedly romantic element in that tradition of acting, which he vividly chronicles in an autobiography. Knight Errant.

published a fortnight ago. Brimful of swagger and of egocentric fancy. it charts a career divided boldly between artistic ambition and personal indulgence, displaying a restless energy and Don Juan assurance which sometimes leaves the reader breathless with admiration or astonishment at the author's effrontery. The book was as if he were re-enacting the adventures of the hero of an 18thtime it seldom reflects the kind of actor he was on stage during most of his career until its relatively glamorous end.

Kenneth Typan had acclaimed him as the essence of the red-brick style of acting which puts brains before breeding. George Devine was cer-tainly not looking for classical actors when he was setting up shop for the English Stage Company, at the Royal Court Theatre in the mid-1950s, for new writers for the stage. But in recruiting Stephens from the Library Theatre, Manchester, he found an actor of integrity and grit who created a stir in all sorts of forgotten works as well as in Osborne's The Entertainer, Wesker's The Kitchen and, above all. Epitaph for George

Here was an anti-hero even nearer to Osborne's heart than Jimmy Porter and Stephens acted it with all his heart. "The cleverest portrait I have seen of a certain kind of neurotic artist," declared Tynan. "Quite wonderful," said Noël Coward: Laurence Olivier made a note to have him as one of the 50 founding members of the forthcoming National Theatre

Company.

With his hooded eyes, beaky nose, heavy jowl, cawing voice, and devil-may-care delight in a profession which gave him scope for being larger than life and twice as exuberant, Stephens did not win universal praise as a charmer. Nor was it in his nature to play for sympathy. Stephens was an off-beat actor. and rather heavy-handed with it.

Indeed that was obvious in Coward's somewhat heavyhanded 1959 version of Fevdeau. Look after Lulu, which had rather oddly got into the Renaud part and Stephens dashing about in his Edwardian combinations.

It was a fault, though, which he was ready enough to correct when a veteran from the prewar Aldwych farces, Robertson Hare, suggested that he took up daily skipping. Other ungainlinesses of manner were less easy to shed.

Nevertheless, Stephens had intelligence, personality, deter-mination and technique. Even before his George Dillon had won golden opinions in London and New York he had shown himself satisfactorily versatile for the Royal Court in authors as diverse as Arthur Miller, Brecht, Wycherley, Nigel Dennis and Michael Hastings.

But who could have foreseen except perhaps Olivier - that, within five years of Dillon, Stephens would be a rising star with the National Theatre at the Old Vic in its heyday and even in line for its throne? Would he have risen so rapidly as an actor, without the good fortune of encountering on stage within three months of his arrival at the National one of the most brilliant comediennes of the day perhaps of any day - the even more versatile Maggie Smith?

Their partnership began purely by chance casting; soon they were cast as a couple whose acting together made one and one add up to three, and in a few seasons they had become the most famous partnership in British theatre.

Although they worked apart well enough in the National's mainly classical repertoire, they made audiences look forward to seeing them together; and halfway through that glittering decade from 1963 to 1973 Olivier one day touched the dashing, Royal Court repertoire with handsome and effervescent



The gusto of heroic acting in its heyday: Stephens as King Leat, at Stratford, 1993 Photograph: Stuart Morris

Would he like to be one of Olivier's chief lieutenants?

Could it be true? Might he as an associate director and something of a matinée idol be heading even higher up the National ladder? Here he was standing as it were in the wings of what was to be called the Royal National Theatre whose great but age-

ing artistic director was ailing.
If ever an actor felt greatness being thrust upon him Stephens could be forgiven for so think-ing. Married by then to one of the era's most accomplished and popular actresses - a comedi-enne and tragedienne who had also become a film star in The century novel; but at the same Vivien Leigh in the Madeleine Stephens on the shoulder. Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (in

which he also appeared) Stephens was thrice blest.

With some accuracy the partpership was compared to other, illustrious couples like the Lunts (Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne), John Clements and Kay Hammond, Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh; and playgoers could sense across the Old Vic footlights the mutual exhilaration, verve and delight in their own teamwork.

The couple were together in Farquhar's The Recruiting Offi-cer (1963: Captain Plume and Silvia), Coward's Hav Fever (1964: Sandy Tyrell and Myra), Much Ado About Nothing (1965: Benedick and Beatrice). Far-

phar's The Beaux' Stratagem (1970: Frances Archer and Mrs Sullen), Hedda Gabler (1970: Eilert Loevborg and Hedda) and - perhaps their most popular and poignant collaboration

– John Gielgud's West End
revival of Coward's Private Lives (1972: Elyot Chase and

Amanda Prinn).

By then, alas, Stephens had wrong-footed it with his boss Olivier ("Larry? He's all dear, darling, lovely boy until opening night, then it's just him and the audience"); and having re-signed from the National realised that his marriage was drawing to a close, though not before Private Lives had been a huge success at the Queen's and then the Globe, bringing Smith another prize as best actress.

With its story of a divorced couple who meet on their honeymoons and fall in love all over again only to realise that they cannot live apart - or together, it was as if the couple were acting out their private life before the public every night. When the play crossed the At-lantic, Stephens did not go. He

directed a play at the Open Space, in London. He played Trigorin in The Seagull at Chichester and Greenwich, Pastor Manders in Ghosts and Claudius in Hamlet (again at Greenwich) and in the West End, a thriller, Murderer (Garrick, 1975). Meanwhile Peter Hall had taken over at the National; and, the divorce concluded, the spirits of the ebullient Stephens sank deeper than he dared admit.

He went on acting. On Broadway he showed his comic mettle again as Sherlock Holmes in a revival of the William Gillette-Conan Doyle play Sherlock Holmes, offsetting some of the frustration felt afHolmes (1969) in which he also took the title-role.

Stephens gave his Othello in Regent's Park, and in 1978 returned to the National Theatre under its new regime in Shakespeare (Oberon), Chekhov (Gayev), Ibsen (the Mayor in Brand), Congreve and as Pontius Pilate. Not a man to let selfpity overrule him, he had however a sociable nature and fell into bouts of dissipation and

sustained obscurity.
Towards the end of the 1980s he was invited to join the Roy-al Shakespeare Company. Its di-rector, Adrian Noble, had, as a schoolboy, revered Stephens's acting as the half-naked, weirdvoiced, chain-clad, god-like sov-ereign of medieval Peru in The Royal Hunt of the Sun (1964). At Stratford-upon-Avon he

played, despite spells of serious iliness, Julius Caesar and Falstaff. He won the Olivier Award as best actor for 1991 for his highly praised Falstaff, a sadder dog than usual. Two seasons later he came forward, again after serious illness, as a much-admired but younger

than usual King Lear. Neither of them however was so much the performance of a great actor as of a once potentially great actor. Their challenge and the extent of his achievement served as a kind of plucky personal therapy: a belated call to arms, which the actor answered with a stout heart and high courage; and this year he was duly knighted in the New Year's Honours list.

Whether his racy, namedropping memoirs, Knight Errant, subtitled "Memoirs of a Vagabond Actor" and written with Michael Coveney, added to any understanding of his art. they drew a zestful, entertaining ter the failure of Billy Wilder's portrait of a sexual opportunist film The Private Life of Sherlock and promising if not tactful ac-

tor in the Permissive Society of 1960s and 1970s London.

They also drew eddies of indignation in certain quarters at their less than courtly manners, for among the actor's proud and numerous conquests of note was, apparently, the historian Lady Antonia Fraser (*1 was her last bad boy, he wrote); and to the charges of bad taste and lack of chivalry he would languidly reply. "My book is certainly a precedent."

From, as it were, his death-bed, he would recreate on the page one of those legendary, hell-raising celebrants of venery, and alcoholism from the postwar British theatre, and whether the figure he wrote about was truly Robert Stephens or one of his even more illustrious contemporaries, or a mixture of them all, there was something undeniably beroic in his attitude

if not his acting.

And defiant. Stephens defied, again and again, all medical augury in his last months, holding court in local pubs whenever he could get away from bospital to chat about his ideas of great acting or great actors: swaggering and (sometimes) swanking to the last, but committed to the notion that in the theatre great acting was ever rooted in the actor's personality. "If I am indeed a good actor," he wrote, "it is partly because I am not, I hope. a duli man. It is impossible for a dull man to be a good actor."

Adam Benedick

Robert Stephens, actor: born Bristol 14 July 1931; Ki 1995; married 1951 Nora Ann Simmonds (one son; marriage dissolved 1956), 1956 Tam Bassett (one daughter; marriage dis-solved 1967), 1967 Maggie Smith (two sons; marriage dissolved 1975), 1995 Patricia Quinn; Aed London 13 November 1995.

Jean-Louis Curtis

After the Second World War, I was determined to regain the Continent by hook or by crook. I arrived in Paris with my landworker's wellies stuffed with 10bob notes donated by a few less adventurous cronies. The date must have been November 1947, because the first thing I noticed was a display of the new Goncourt prizewinning novel Les Forets de la nuit by an author unknown to me, Jean-

I was hungry for French food. theatre, ballet and cinema, and did not want to waste my little store of francs on books. I started reading the book standing up. It was a brilliantly evocative account of life in a small village in occupied France. Half an hour passed and I bought it. and the author's first novel. Les Jeunes hommes (Prix Cazes. 1946), which made me Curtis's lifelong fan. After the starchy British literary diet, I was lost in admiration of this classic. spare, elegant style with its serious wil and wide-ranging

diversity of themes. Curtis was everything the British distrust in a writer. Multi-talented, versatile, international in cultural and social concern. Yet he adored British literature. His are the best translations of Shakespeare: while his adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's La Locandiera with its Venetian carnival gajety often graced the boards of the Comédie Italienne in the Rue de la Gaité in Montparnasse. Curtis also translated modern British playwrights: his Hudri-



Curtis: classic, spare, elegant Photograph: Hulton Deutsch

an VII and Look Back in Anger were big box-office hits that enabled him to devote all his time to travel, good living and

Curtis was one of the founders of the influential litcrary monthly La Table Ronde which started in 1948. The name was taken from the circular table at the Vieux Paris restaurant on the Place du Panthéon. Every Monday, a group of writers including Curtis, Jacques Laurent. François Mauriac and other like-minded traditionalists would gather to dine well and exchange scan-dalous gossip about fellow authors. In Bertrand de Saint Vincent's massive biography of Jacques Laurent, Curtis makes several appearances, and gives unexpected insights into Mauriac, "that pillar of Roman Catholic respectability", throwing himself back in his chair

giggles at his own deliciously malicious barbs directed at rivals such as André Gide, Henri de Montherlant, Marcel Jouhandeau and other homosexual writers. At the same time, these sessions were further enlivened by the fairy presence of the supernaturally skinny ballet dancer Jacques Chazot, model for Giacometti, who would perform his dazzling pirouettes and tours-en-l'air for the delectation of the ageing Mauriac. Curtis too was an admirer of the dancer, and was present at his funeral in 1993.

Curtis paid no attention whatsoever to the faddish fluctuations of "literary taste" which tended to disparage his conservatism in the latter part of his career. Born with the Russian October Revolution, he was, unlike many of his contemporaries, never deluded by the sinister papier-maché beam on the visage of Josef Stalin. Curtis was not a liberal but something better, a libertarian humanist, unusual in our cynical times, and so derided by the "socialist intelligentsia", whom he mocked in his turn in a series of "pastiches" written from 1981 onwards in L'Express.

In Les Forêts de la nuit, he had drawn acid portraits of those who played at being members of the Resistance. (Curtis served with distinction in the French Air Force, like his friend and fellow writer Jules Roy.) In Chers corbeaux (1951) his targets were the Parisian bourgeoisie who had done well out of the Nazi occupation. In La

Larwood, cricketer, 1904; Joseph

emperor, 565; Alexander Nevsky, Russian ruler, 1263; Thomas Parr,

kobert whitehead, inventor of the torpedo, 1905; Frederick Sleigh Roberts, first Earl Roberts, field marshal, 1914; Hector Hugh Munro ("Saki"), writer, killed in action 1916; Marie Adelaide Belloc Lown-

des, novelist, 1947; Robert Emme

Sherwood, playwright, 1955; Tony Richardson, film and theatre direc-tor, 1991. On this day: one of the greatest known earthquakes in Eng-land occurred, 1318; James Bruce dis-

covered the source of the Blue Nile, 1770; the first London-to-Brighton

car run was held, 1896; Lieutenant Eugene Ely, US Navy, was the first

man to take off in an aircraft from

the deck of a ship, 1910; book tokens

first went on sale, 1932; Coventry Cathedral was destroyed by enemy bombing, 1940; the aircraft carrier Ark Royal was sunk, 1941; the New Musical Express published Britain's

first pop music chart, 1952; after a subterranean volcano erupted, a new island appeared off Iceland, 1963; colour television transmission

was begun in Britain, 1969; Princess

Anne married Cantain Mark Phillips,

1973. Today is the Feast Day of St

Adeotus Aribert, St Dubricius or Dyfrig, St Laurence O'Toole, St

Parade (1960) he wrote a devastating satire on rich old provincial upper-class drones, a book that infuriated families like the Giscard d'Estaings. In Le Mauvais choix (1984) he attacked Christian bigotry. It is his only historical novel, well researched, set in the third century AD.

All this was composed with an ironic restraint the French think of as "très British", but which is in fact the proud beritage of the greatest writers -Stendhal, Voltaire, Flaubert,

Yet underlying the mockety there was a true concern for France and the French as can be seen in his novels dealing with social and humanitarian issues, that led to his being called a "pagan Bernanos". So Les Justes causes (1954) is about the liberation of Paris, and Le Jeune couple (1967) dealt with the splendours and miseries of our idiotic "consumer society".

Today in the Paris of the 'Goncourt Season", Jean-Louis Curtis, Officier de la Légion d'Honneur et des Arts et des Lettres, Grand Prix de Littérature de l'Académie Française, is being honoured once more by those who were his young friends and close contemporaries in those post-war years that seemed then so full of

James Kirkun

Jean-Louis Curtis, writer, born Orthez, Basses-Pyrénées 22 May 1917; died Paris 11 November D. T. Hudson - secret agent and mining engineer - had a career of almost unexampled endurance during the last World

"Bill" Hudson was born in Kent in 1910 of South African parents who sent him to St Andrew's College, Grahamstown, and then to the School of Mines in South Kensington. There he distinguished himself as an athlete, particularly as a boxer; he used to say that he preferred fists to pistols if it came to selfdefence at close quarters.

He went to manage an antimony mine in the Yugoslav mountains in 1935 and prospected in the Balkans. Next year he was married to a white Russian ballerina but could not nersuade her to come and live near his mine; she preferred the bright lights and they agreed to divorce. He never remarried but remained attractive to women, many of whom delighted in his company; he is supposed to have been (like Merlin Minshall) one of lan Fleming's models for James Bond.

In the autumn of 1939 he was recruited into Section D (supposedly for "Destruction") of the British Secret Service, and in its service at Zagreb his clandestine adventures began. One of his colleagues was murdered. and Croat extremists of pro-German sympathies planted a bomb beneath his office which nearly killed him. He already spoke fluent Serbo-Croat, and recruited a network of saboteurs to tackle Axis shipping in Dal-matian ports; he sank an Ital-

ian ship himself in February 1941, by which time Section D had been absorbed into the Special Operations Executive.

SOE extracted him from Yugoslavia, but sent him back there in September 1941 by submarine. Julian Amery saw ashore Hudson and three Yugoslavs, with two wireless sets, one of which soon burnt out. Hudson's orders were to find out what was happening; and, if he could, to make all the resisters

he found work together. He met a body of guerrillas who called themselves partisans under a leader who called himself Tito; they wore red stars in that their leadership was Communist. He met another party of guerrillas who called themselves Chemiks and came under Colonel Drazha Mihailovic of the pre-war Serb General Staff. He was the only British agent who met both Mihailovic and Tito: but he was unable to make them work together. On the contrary, he realised that they were about to embark on

a Yugoslav civil war. Mihailovic confiscated his wireless set, and he had an absolutely miserable winter, living on little beyond stinging nettles and slivovitz. Serb peasants no better fed than himself looked after him and confirmed his lifelong admiration for them as a race. All round him villages were being burned by the Germans, who executed 100 Yugoslavs for every man they lost: so ghastly a rate of reprisal that operations for a while, though it did not deter Tito. Hudson was twice captured

Colonel D. T. Hudson

by bandits, but escaped. Locally he was codenamed Marko in memory of a Serb monarch who had held out against all odds in the Middle Ages. What happened to such reports as he managed to send out to SOE in Cairo remains unclear. SOE sent in Col S.W. Bailey, who out-ranked him, in 1942; he stayed on as political adviser in turn to Bailey and to Brigadier C.D. Armstrong, until early 1944 when he was at last withdrawn

by Dakota for a rest. His rest was brief. He was flown to London in May to brief Churchili and Eden on what he thought was happening on the spot. By this time, on Churchill's orders. SOE had dropped its support for Mihailovic and was backing Tito, because Tito seemed to be killing more Germans and was tarred less black



with the brush of collaboration with the enemy.

He was promoted Colonel and briefed for a recomnaissance mission into southern Poland called "Freston"; which the Russians forbade but which parachuted in all the same (at the fourth attempt) north of Krakow late in 1944. Within a month, the party was overrun by the Red Army and promptly arrested by the NKVD. They were held in atrocious conditions until the day after the Yalta conference was over and Poland's fate was sealed.

After the war Hudson volunteered to appear as a witness for Mihailovic, who was put on trial in Belgrade and then executed, but was told he would be prosecuted as a war criminal if he set foot in Tito's Yugoslavia. He returned to South Africa and to mining, this time for tungsten. He sold out a tungsten mine he had discovered for so large a sum that he could spend the rest of his long life as a gentleman of leisure with a flat over Prunier's in St James's and another in Durban. He was troubled by depression, feeling that he ought to be able to do more to help his beloved Serbs; yet always remained a strong, gentle, lovable character.

M. R. D. Foot

Duane Tyrrel Hudson, secret agent and mining engineer: born Bromley, Kent 11 August 1910; DSO 1942; OBE 1945; married 1936 Ada Proskurnikova (marriage dissolved); died Durban 1 November 1995.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

MOWAT: On 11 November, Professor Alex P. Mowai MB ChB FRCP DCH, aged 60 years, died suddenly while on a acture tour in Sontiago. Crile. Dear-by belowed husband of Ann and great-if fowed father of Adrian and Neil, and grandfather of Euan. He was Pro-lessor of Paediatric Hepatology at lessor of Pacdiatric Hepatology of King's College Hospital, London Arrangements to be announced.

Apportuncements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Martiages, Deuths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries. In Memoriam; should be sent in writing to the Gazette Ed-itor, The Independent, J Canada Square, Ca-nary Whari, London E 14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faued to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 56.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. S. Booton

and Miss S. L. Taylor The engagement is announced be-tween Nigel Stanley, younger son of Mr Stanley Booton, of Saddlestreet, Dorset, and of the late Mrs Pauline Booton, and Sally Lind, only daugh-ter of Mr and Mrs Harry Taylor, of

overcome by uncontrollable

Birthdays The Prince of Wales, 47; King Hussein of Jordan, 60; Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman, Barratt Developments plc, 68: Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General, United Nations, 73; Miss Margaret Courte-nay, actress, 72; Mr Quentin Crewe, writer and restaurateur, 69; Mr James Crowden, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, 68; Mr Paul Dacre, Editor, Daily Mail, 47; Mr Thomas Dawson, former Solicitor General for Scotland, 47: The Right Rev Mgr George Hay, parish priest, 65; M Bernard Hinault, Tour de France winner. 41; Mr Peter Katin, concert pianist, 65; Mr Mark Le Fanu, General Secretary, the Society of Authors, 49, Air Marshal Sir Richard Nelson, 88; Mr Patrick Nicholls MP, 47; Mr Gunther Sachs, former bobsleigh champion, 63; Mr David Shaw MP, 45; Miss Diana Skilbeck, Headmistress, the Queen's School, Chester, 53; Sir Dudley Smith MP, 69; Sir Joseph Smith, former Director, Public Health Laboratory Service, 65;

Anniversaries

Births: Robert Fulton, steamboat pi-

Sir Arthur Wans, former legal adviser, Foreign and Commonwealth

Spontini, composer, 1774; Sir Charles Nicholas Tavelic, St Peter of Lyell, geologist, 1797; Claude-Oscar Monet, painter, 1840; Leo Hendrik Narbonne and St Stephen of Cuneo. Backeland, inventor of Bakelite, 1863; Pandit Jawalharlai Nehru, statesman, 1889: Sir Frederick Grant Banting, physician, 1891; Harold

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Ceilings (ii): Rubens, The Ban-queting House Ceiling", 1pm. Raymond McCarthy, US senator, 1908; Dame Elisabeth Frink, sculptor, 1930. Deaths: Justinian I, Roman British Museum: Joyce Filer, "Body Decoration in Africa", 1.15pm. Highgate Literary and Scientific In-stitution, London N6: Shirley Hugh-es. "A Telling Line: Children's Book Russian ruler, 1263; Thomas Parr, "Old Parr", reputedly aged 151, 1635; Nell (Eleanor) Owynn, actress and mistress of Charles II, 1687; Gottfried Wilhelm, Fretherr von Leibniz, philosopher, 1716; Georg Wilhelm Priedrich Hegel, philosopher, 1831; Robert Whitehead, inventor of the tration since the 1920s", 7.45pm. Landscape Institute/RIBA, RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Kathryn Gustafson, "Landscaping, from Private Gardens to Public

London School of Economics, De Gruyter Lecture: Professor Robert Legvold, "The Post-Soviet States and the Peace in Europe and East Asia", 5.30pm.

English-Speaking Union Miss Clare Francis was guest of ho mass Clare Francis was guest of no-nour and speaker at the annual din-ner of the English-Speaking Union Cheshire branch, held yesterday evening at Chester Town Hall. The Duke of Westminster, president of the ESU Chester branch, was in the chair. Miss Joan Houghton, chairman of the branch, received the guests.

Chatham Dining Club The Chatham Dining Club met yes-terday evening at St Ermin's Hotel, London SWi. The principal guest was Mr Jocelyn Stevens. Mr Keith Egleston was in the chair.

Sir Michael Murray Hordern, of Newbury, Berkshire, the actor, left

Home Secretary's decision on lifer unlawful

it put Mihailovic off active

Home Department, ex parte Pierson; Queen's Bench Division (Mr Justice Thrner); 10 November 1995

The Home Secretary could not increase the period to be served by mandatory life prisoners to satisfy the requirements of retribution and deterrence unless there were exceptional circumstances or reasons for an

Mr Justice Turner quashed the Home Secretary's decision that the applicant, a prisoner serving two concurrent sentences of life imprisonment, should serve at least 20 years to satisfy the requirements of retribution and deterrence.

The applicant was convicted

of killing his parents and sentenced to two mandatory life sentences. The Home Secretary was required to inform the applicant of recommendations made by the trial judge and Lord Chief Justice of the tariff period necessary to satisfy the requirements of retribution and deterrence. The Home Secretary was not required to adopt the judicial advice but must give reasons for departing from it. The Home Secretary's policy, as stated in Parliament, was exceptionally to revise the view of the miniLAW REPORT

he concluded that the minimum requirements were not

The judiciary recommended 15 years as the appropriate period for the applicant. In August 1993 the Home Secretary decided that the period recommended by the judiciary would have been appropriate for a single premeditated offence but that, since this was a double murder, a longer period of 20 years was

satisfied.

The applicant responded to that decision by pointing out that the fact that the applicant had been convicted of a double murder would have been taken into account by the judiciary in their evaluation of the severity of the offences and that it had never been alleged against the applicant that what

he did was premeditated. The Home Secretary reconsidered the matter. In May 1994 he accepted that it would be wrong to proceed on the basis that the murders were premeditated and accepted that the two murders were part of a single incident. However his view was that 20 years was appropriate to meet the requiremum period by increasing it if ments of retribution and

deterrence for the crimes. The applicant applied for judicial re-

view of that decision. Edward Fitzgerald QC (Graham Withers & Co, Shrewshray) for the ap-plicant, David Pannick QC (Treasury Solicitor) for the Home Secretary.

Mr Justice Turner said that it was accepted that the dual factors of premeditation and two separate murders, had they been present, would have justified an increase in the tariff. The applicant submitted that in the absence of those two factors, the tariff should have been fixed at a lower figure than originally chosen by the Home Secretary. The purported justification of the 20year period included the two misconceptions identified. It was submitted that it was not lawfully open to the Home Secretary to fix the longer pe-

riod if no new adverse factor had emerged. The argument that the Home Secretary's discretion was absolute was rejected. It was contrary to the thrust of the statement made to Parliament. Fairness must also come into

the exercise. There was no doubt that an exceptional circumstance, such as relevant new information of an adverse character, would be required before the Home Secretary could make a decision to increase the period of detention that would be capable of withstanding an assault on the ground that the decision was

irrational.

One of the main purposes in requiring the Home Secretary to tell mandatory life prisoners what minimum period was fixed was so that they might know how long they should expect to serve, provided all things remained constant. If fairness was the parameter which was to govern the exercise of his discretion, it might be thought that the Home Secretary had failed to measure up

to the required standard. The two manifest errors in the Home Secretary's first decision were corrected in the second decision. There was an absence of any other changed factor which could explain what implicitly was a change of mind. What remained unexplained and inexplicable was how the Home Secretary arrived at the identical period despite the absence of the two factors agreed to be aggravating, if they had been present. Therefore the Home Secretary's decision

in 1994 must be quashed. Ying Hui Tan. Barrister

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IN BRIEF

Power and water companies last night dismissed suggestions that

they had secret talks with Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Min-

ister, about windfall customer rebates. Of the companies said

to have met Mr Heseltine, only British Gas declined to comment. Norweb, the electricity company, and North West Water,

boost the "feel-good" factor prior to a general election.

tigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, he said:

"The Lloyds bid is against the interests of customers and staff

and would be bad for the economy. It will do nothing for com-

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has begun an investiga-

tion into media allegations over the sale of Airbus Industrie air-

craft to Air Canada. The Swiss Federal Justice Department said

it had also opened an inquiry into Canadian allegations that Air-bus paid bribes into Swiss bank accounts in connection with the sale of several aircraft to Canadian companies.

revenues from the telephone side of its business, fuelled by a 70 per cent increase in subscribers. Added to similar results last

week from the other two UK-listed cable operators, TeleWest

and Nynex CableComms, the news will not be welcome at BT.

which is losing phone customers at a rate of 30,000 every three months to competitors such as Energis, Mercury and the cable companies in particular. Cable's success has been costly. Nynex

and Telewest both saw their revenues per phone customer drop

year-on-year in the third quarter, reflecting the deep discounts

they offer to BT's published rates. General Cable's average re-turn from business telephony customers plunged 17 per cent year

Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, confirmed that it is to stop trading European stocks through the London Stock Exchange's SEAQ International and, instead, will conduct all its European trades directly on local markets, as reported in yes-

The London Futures Exchange, Liffe, is to begin trading Euroyen futures, the second largest futures contract in the world, from spring next year, Liffe yesterday signed a formal link agreement with the Tokyo international futures exchange, which will

allow Euroyen trading in the European time zone.

Salomon confirms stocks move

Liffe to trade in Euroyen

terday's Independent.

Comment, page 21

Revenue up at cable phone company

petition, but a lot for the earnings of senior directors.

Inquiry into Airbus bribe allegations

Banking union challenge for Blair

Utilities deny secret rebate talks

953

3:4

"Becchmark Indices

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER CBI conference: Labour leader's pledge to maintain low-inflation economy wins biggest share of applause

MARKET SUMMARY Blair earns reward for dedication to wealth **9110**

PETER RODGERS and MARY FAGAN

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Tony Blair promised his full backing yesterday for those who become wealthy through hard work, and was rewarded with a longer ovation for his speech to the CBI annual conference than Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Pledging full support for a competitive, low-inflation economy, Mr Blair rejected as senseless penal rates of taxation. They are gone for good. I want a tax regime where through hard work, risk and success, people can become wealthy. Britain needs successful people in business, who can become rich by their success." His ova-tion lasted 55 seconds, 12 more than Mr Heseltine, who rounded off the day's session calling for relentless efforts by business to improve competitiveness.

The reaction to Mr Blair from many business leaders in the hall was positive, counter-acting a careful distancing on Sunday by the CBI leadership, which has been under pressure from Tory members to take a less emollient line towards Labour, Sir Bryan Nicholson, CBI president, said: "Tony Blair's speech was about general reassurance and not much about specifics. Michael Heseltine's speech was detailed and specific about what is happening and what is going lo

happen." He saw this as reassurance that the Government was not going to throw away the act imprudently.
But Sir Michael Perry, chair-

man of Unilever, after a brief private word with Mr Blair outside the meeting, described it as a serious speech that deliberately addressed the concerns of industry and sought to give hon-est answers. "To that extent it will have won a lot of friends at the conference, and in the minds of many people it will have proved that there are serious

policies being considered."

Sir Michael said that the issues highlighted by Mr Blair were "right in the middle of the bullseye, even if people disagreed with his views. I think he addressed them fairly and squarely. That will give a lot of comfort to people."
Mr Blair identified key issues

on his agenda, including an end to economic boom and bust, a clear target for inflation. a tax regime to encourage investment and domestic savings, partnership in limited but key areas between the private and public sectors, improvement of infrastructure, and Europe and the single market.

But he said that if there was one priority above all else it was education, which he described as the "passion of my govern-ment, and I mean it". He added: "Get it right and a lot else falls



Tory line: Michael Heseltine addressing conference yesterday

Photograph: Newsteam into place. Get it wrong and eco-ter was a set of principles rather nomic underperformance as

than detailed legislation, and a well as social decay beckon." Tackling the Social Chapter Labour government would judge each piece of legislation and the minimum wage, Mr Blair said: "The truth - unon its merits. "I have no intention of agreeing to anything and everything that emerges from the EU. But an empty-chair polcomfortable for parts of the left and right - is that the minimum wage and the Social Chapter will icy, which is what we have at the neither destroy nor build a bet-ter economy". The Social Chap-or good politics."

Business would be consulted on the level at which any min-

imum wage would be set and how it would be implemented. Parts of business already understood that it was neither efficient nor fair to pay people as little as possible. He also pointed out that a minimum wage had not stopped Germany or the US from being competitive.

Heseltine attacks Britain's 'laggards'

MARY FAGAN and PETER RODGERS

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, launched an attack on the "self-satisfied laggards" of British industry and called on the nation's best performers to help pull the rest

Closing the day's proceedings at the CBI. Mr Heseltine announced plans to write to the chairmen of the country's 1.000 largest companies to enlist their help in spreading best practice throughout UK

Mr Heseltine said: "There are as many British companies in the world-class league as there are German companies. Our problem comes lower down the scale where we have four times as many companies which lag badly in key respects. This long tail of underper-formers holds down the national average and blurs the excellence of the leaders in their respective fields." Adding that it is the laggards who are most complacent about their performance", Mr Heseltine revealed plans to tackle the problem with a national benchmarking" scheme to compare the best with the rest.

Mr Heseltine also sought to reassure business that the Government will not act imprudently on taxation or be deflected from its current "disciplines" in any way that could burt industry. "We will not reach for short-term inflationary palliatives. We will not undermine your competitiveness by imposing social costs on you," he said.

He added: "We see taxes as you see taxes. Whatever they are called - windfall taxes, social taxes, non-penal taxes or even tartan taxes, they are all taxes." He said the Government wanted the most competitive regime that "prudence can ac-

commodate Mr Heseltine also promised to continue to fight Britain's corner within the European Union and to fight for regulation and competitiveness throughout the EU.

He warned that each partner with the Union has its own agenda as well as the European agenda, adding: "Anyone who thinks you can win over the French and Germans by rolling over on your backs and waving your paws in the air has much to learn about the rules of

Industry chief attacks Tory far-right 'fringe'

John Redwood's Eurosceptic free packed lunch, were met meeting in the Birmingham "frenzied fringe" by Sir Bryan Nicholson, CBI president, in his opening speech.

Mr Redwood, whose meeting attracted just under 100, of whom several dozen appeared to he media, from among the 1,000 delegates, said: "You are all very brave to engage in a dehate at a CBI conference. Welcome to this novelty." But after speeches from the panel, invitations for comments from the delegates, who had enjoyed a

with one question from a jour-Repertory Theatre next door to nalist and a resounding silence conference was attacked as the from the rest of the audience. The panel, sitting on the set of Congreve's The Way of the

World, a drama of intrigue and wit, may well have aired the dissident view on Europe. But despite its billing as widening the debate, there was a tremendous air of anti-climax about the Sir Leon said that Britain would whole event. The fringe was clearly in no frenzy. During the morning the en-

emy from Brussels had been

questions from the floor of the unelected European president main debate were curiously will send British troops marchsupportive of the main CBI line. Sir Leon Brittan, vice-pres-

ident of the European Commission, had already ridiculed Mr Redwood's argument that to join a single currency would mean interest rates and lend-ing policies being decided by unelected officials in Frankfurt. not become one of the

ing into battle to the strains of Beethoven's Ninth".

Sir Leon made an urgent plea for Britain not to close its of the CBI Europe Committee options on monetary union, and vice-chairman of Unilever, and rejected the suggestion that the Government should declare that it would not enter monetary union within the lifetime of the next parliament. "It is seductive but literally inprovinces in a federal Europe. credible to say that we would adding: "Nor is it that the not really be closing off any op-gnomes of Frankfurt will fax the tions. I can only say once again straining every muscle to woo Budget straight to the Chan-British business and all the cellor's office, still less that an to go ahead makes it extreme-

ly unsafe to assume that by the end of the next parliament, in 2002. EMU will still not be in existence".

Niall Fitzgerald, chairman said British business and its economic interests had been damaged by political divisions over Europe. "It is time for the UK government to demonstrate that it can be a critical but constructive force in the shaping of the EU." he told delegates.

Peter Rodgers and Mary Fagan

international politics."

denied any talks. Powergen and National Power also denied any Head of knowledge. Whitehall sources were reported to have said that Mr Heseltine had embarked on a campaign to persuade privatised companies to offer customers up to £200 in price cuts to **Equitas** chosen Ed Sweeney, who was yesterday elected general secretary of the

Banking Insurance and Finance Union, challenged Tony Blair to intervene in the Lloyds Bank bid for the TSB. Making clear his frustration with Labour over its refusal to call for an inves-JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

> Lloyd's of London has chosen an American, Michael Crall, to be the chief executive of Equitas, the giant re-insurance company which is to take over liability for all the insurance

market's old policies.

Mr Crall, for the past nine years president of the Argonaut Insurance Company based in California, was selected mainly for his experience of the US market, which has been responsible for the great majority of the old pollution and asbestosis liabilities that have General Cable yesterday announced sharply higher nine-month brought such ruinous losses to

> Lloyd's is facing a wave of investigations in the US by state regulators into allegations that he insurance market fraudulently misled investors by re-cruiting them when the massive risk potential of asbestosis and pollution losses was already known to insiders.

The success of Equitas, which will take over all pre-1993 policies, allowing a "new Lloyd's" to trade forward unencumbered into the future, is essential to the insurance market's ambitious elobal restructuring and recov-

ery plan.

Mr Crall, 51, was selected from a shortlist of 26, Lloyd's

said yesterday. Jane Barker, formerly chief financial officer at the London Stock Exchange, is to take over as finance director of Equitas. Both appointments are to begin on 1 December, with Equitas seeking conditional approval from the Department of Trade and Industry by the end of

BAA faces rise in cost of tunnelling collapse

RUSSELL HOTTEN

BAA, the UK airports operator, may face heavier costs over last year's collapse of a rail tunnel at Heathrow after ruling out legal action against Balfour Beatty. But Sir John Egan, BAA's chief executive, refused to say how much the delays in the construction of the Heathrow Express tunnel link

would mean to the company. Insurance payouts will not cover the extra costs and there had been suggestions that BAA might seek to recover money through the courts.

Asked if he would go to court over the matter, Sir John said there was "no conflict" between BAA and Balfour Beatty, the construction company building the rail link. "We are working together. It is a partnership," he said.

He said BAA might not know for another two to three years what additional costs it faced.

the tunnel has now resumed, the opening of the link has been delayed by about six months to tor, said Eurotunnel was remid-1998. He stressed that, moving 125,000 passengers a even with the delay, the Heathrow Express was a "good profitable project".

There was "a good healthy gap" between the break-even cost of the Express and the return on the project BAA was expecting. The rail link, initially costed at £300m, will take travellers between the airport and Paddington station in west London.

BAA, which yesterday reported a 10.9 per cent rise in they produced better returns half-year profits to £294m, on than the UK operations. Friday revenues up 5.8 per cent to £698m, expects the Eurostar train service to take away more passengers next year.

Although passenger defections to Eurostar so far had been smaller than expected -

while talks with the insurance about 1.5 per cent against fore-companies are held. casts of 2-3 per cent - the amount of lost business will rise

Russell Walls, finance direcmonth from BAA's airports. He estimated that BAA passenger growth for the first half of 5.8 per cent would rise to around 7 per cent without competition from Eurotunnel. The lost business was hitting the London-Paris route. with London-Brussels services hardly affected, Mr Walls said.

BAA, which is looking to expand overseas, said it would only enter into international deals if sees the launch of Australia Pacific Airports Corporation, a venture between BAA and investors in Australia, where the UK company is hoping to buy airports being privatised.

Investment Column, page 22

Output prices at four-year high

PAUL WALLACE Economics Editor

Factory gate inflation rose to its highest for more than four years in October, but the underlying outlook for inflation in the manufacturing sector brightened. Core prices charged by manufacturing rose by the smallest amount for more than a year and the prices for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing fell for the first time since January 1994.

Despite the rise in output

sury said there were clear signs that pressures in the pipeline from input price inflation were subsiding. Spokesmen also drew attention to the fact that the quarter-on-quarter annualised rate of inflation in core manufacturing output had fallen from 4.8 to 4 per cent. But Andrew Smith, Shadow

Chief Secretary, said the factory gate prices figures should be taken as a serious warning on inflation as the Chancellor shaped his Budget. The markets reacted favoprices to 4.6 per cent, its highest since August 1991, the Trea-

aging. Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers. said: "Weaker output price data are a key step on the road to lower base rates." Although overall factory gate inflation rose from 4.5 to 4.6 per

cent in October, the core index which excludes food, beverages, tobacco and petroleum fell from 5 to 4.8 per cent. There was even more encouraging news with input prices. The fall in seasonally adjusted input prices of 0.3 per cent, the first for almost two years, brought the annual rate down from a revised 9.2 to 7.8 per cent.





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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Forge



'Labour has already

signs of retreat to this

corporatist approach

with its mooted British

Telecom deal. Let us

planning to take it a

hope Michael

Heseltine isn't

stage further

shown disturbing

When profit-sharing becomes an electoral bribe More and more desperate grow those wizzard wheezes, apparently dreamt up at the highest levels, for solving the Con-servative Party's spot of electoral difficulty.

Notwithstanding Michael Heseltine's robust denial yesterday, it seems that somewhere, somehow, someone in authority suggested (possibly only as an aside) that the utilities might want to come to the Government's aid, not this time as the butt of a windfall profits tax, but through voluntary customer rebates - a kind of privatised pre-election tax

giveaway.

The idea is eminently plausible for it is exactly the sort of thing the President of the Board of Trade, or his Energy Minister, Tim Eggar, might have suggested. Whether it was ever seriously put to the utilities – those contacted yesterday claim not - is anyone's guess but it is certainly not something they could even begin to consider.

Mutual back-scratching by big business and government is always a highly suspect thing; when it amounts to businesses giving a simple cash-in-hand "vote Tory" electoral bribe to their customers it begins to look postively corrupt. In the terms floated, what would happen is this. Collectively, the utilities would ensure a £200 rebate to every household in the country, helping the Tories, who have no windfall profit tax plans, to a stomping great victory at the next election. Alternatively, should the plan backfire and

There is a precedent for this - the National Grid flotation, which involves a £50 customer rebate. The regional electricity companies didn't have to do this and indeed some of them didn't want to. With stick and carrot, Mr Eggar eventually persuaded them. But this was a rather different set of circumstances.

There are two big drawbacks with the latest idea. The first is that there is no obvious reason why the utilities should want to give succour to a lost cause when there is a good chance of the other side punishing them for it, regardless of their financial ability to cope, in 18 months' time. The other is the more principled point that having finally escaped through privatisation the politically motivated manipulations of the state, there is no earthly reason why the utilities would want to rush back into them.

Some utilities are already voluntarily "sharing" excess profits (profits over and above those anticipated by the regulator) between customers and shareholders. Though there are drawbacks with formalising these arrangements - Ian Byatt, the water regulator believes they could act as a disincentive to efficiency - if the Government wants to go the excess profit-sharing route, it clearly has to be done through the mechanism of an independent regulator. To Alternatively, should the plan backfire and Labour win anyway, the utilities would be sufficiently weakened financially to make the Labour has already shown disturbing signs flotation.

imposition of such a tax virtually impossible. | of retreat to this corporatist approach to economic and electoral management with its mooted British Telecom deal. Let us hope Michael Heseltine isn't planning to take it a stage further.

Some cheer for cable investors

Telephony has become the undisputed dri-ving force of the cable TV industry, to British Telecom's great annoyance. In the eight years before the Government allowed cable operators into the telephony market, the industry cabled only 103,000 homes. But in the four years since the rules were changed, 900,000 more homes have been added. Poor little BT is currently losing customers at an annual rate of 120,000. According to the latest industry estimates, cable could take as much as 9 per cent of the UK telecoms market by 2004, up from about 1 per cent now. By the end of the decade, there could be as many as 4 million cable telephone lines in the country.

That should provide at least some cheer to investors treading water with cable shares since the first UK issue, TeleWest, came to the London market last December. Of the three UK quoted stocks, only one, General Cable, is trading - just - at more than its issue price, and that is only because it was so radically down-scaled prior to the

With networks now much more extensive | operators have a very narrow window. than a year ago, and the subscriber base growing steadily, it may finally be possible to expect a return on investment. Certainly General Cable, which yesterday unveiled results for the nine months to 30 September, is showing robust growth, with two of its three units in operating profit. It may well be that valuations which

ooked fancy in the extreme when first thrust apon reluctant British investors are at the point when they begin to look at least reasonable if still not exactly good value. There are a few caveats, however. The biggest source of concern is the low pene tration rates achieved by the leading cable operators. The industry average is barely over 20 per cent. Moreoever, churn rates are well in excess of 30 per cent in many franchise areas, even if better marketing and tighter credit controls are beginning to

bring the figure down at the better managed

operators.

There are also doubts about how successfully pay-TV can entice viewers used to quality "free" television, and how long BT will allow cable companies to continue poaching freely from them. There is a point at which BT says enough is enough and puts in train a very aggressive round of price cuts to counter the cable threat. It has not been reached yet, but it isn't far off. Still protected by regulation from the entry of BT into the broadcasting market, and aided, as well, by Oftel's tight controls on BT's pricing, the | an easy one to call.

On balance, however, the betting is that the UK penetration rate will rise to a more respectable 50 or even 60 per cent by the end

of the decade, closer to the level achieved in the US, fuelled in part by the introduction of such services as home banking and interactive shopping. Furthermore, the number of cable companies is likely to be greatly reduced by merger and acquisition to perhaps as few as half a dozen. The resultant economies of scale will help the survivors, among which the publicly quoted operators are bount to be counted.

Power bids decision too close to call

With Ian Lang's decision on whether to refer the PowerGen and National Power bids for regional electricity companies to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission little more than a week away. markets are working themselves up into a lather of speculation. We already know what both the electricity regulator and the director general of fair trading want, unless they have radically changed their stance after recent rebuffs. They are both in favour of referral. Apart from the DTI, so too are most government departments, with widespread scepticism of the claims being made in favour of vertical consolidation in this industry. Not

Forge drop: Overstocking triggers cutbacks by European producers, taking shine off earnings growth

British Steel warns of slowdown as profits soar

TOM STEVENSON Deputy City Editor

British Steel signalled the peak of the European steel cycle yesterday, warning that a slow-down in demand in the second half could lead to a cut in production. Despite the gloomy comments from the chairman and chief executive, Brian Moffat, however, the shares edged 2p higher to close at 159p as profits in the six months to September soured and the dividend was marked 50 per cent

Mr Moffat said: "The last quarter has seen an easing of demand due to over-stocking in a result, a number of European producers have recently announced a cutback in production to exert a steadying

tion, which showed a 2.8 per cent decline in production in October compared to 12 months ago, dragging back growth for the first 10 months of the year to less than 5 per

the shine off what appeared to be excellent profits growth, showing a jump in pre-tax profits from £159m to £550m, only £28m short of the total for the whole of the year to March. The results were the latest improvement in the company's rapid recovery from heavy loss-es in 1992 and 1993.

Earnings per share jumped from 6.49p to 19.3p and the interim dividend soared from 2p to 3p. Mr Moffat confirmed that

influence on prices." His com- it was British Steel's intention ments were confirmed by figures to pay two-thirds of the payout at the final stage, implying a total dividend of 9p, compared to

last year's 7.5p.

Mr Moffat described the softening of demand in Europe, which accounts for 86 per cent of British Steel's sales, as "a blip" and said the group would The uncertain outlook took mitigate any downturn in prices by attacking other overseas markets. He added that underlying consumption of the company's products was still reasonably good".

He said possible production cut-backs would not lead to large-scale redundancies or plant closures, but he refused to ule out job losses. Two months ago, the company shed 520 jobs after closing its seamless tube plant at Wednesfield in the

Despite the slowdown in the market, British Steel is pressing ahead with a capital expenditure programme that will cost £400m this year, including spending at the Swedish stainless steel group Avesta Sheffield, a former 49.9 per cent associate that the company now consolidates following the acquisition of a further 1.1 per cent to

Mr Moffat confirmed that, although British Steel still oper-ated in a highly cyclical industry, he believed the next downtum would be less severe than other recent slumps. He thought privatisation of previously stateowned European steel manucommerical attitudes in the industry. That and a marked reduction in capacity had reduced the risk of overproduction.

gain control.



Brian Moffat: Softening European demand is 'a blip'

Wells Fargo raises offer for California rival to \$10.9bn

DAVID USBORNE

New York

Relaunching the most expensive hostile takeover bid in the history of American banking, Wells Fargo & Co vesterday increased its offer for its rival in the California market. First Interstate, by nearly \$900m to \$10.9bn.

the original Wells Fargo bid, made on 13 October, and last week announced it had opted instead for a friendly merger with Minneapolis-based First

Either merger would represent the most expensive takeover ever between US banks,

surpassing the \$10bn price tag of the proposed Chemical Bank-Chase Manhattan combination. It is the hostile nature of Wells Fargo's approach that has most suprised the industry, however, which until now has Bank Systems worth \$10.3bn. been used only to friendly

In a letter to the board of

First Interstate yesterday, Paul Hazen, chairman of Wells Far-go, said: "Our offer is superior to First Bank Systems's and we believe it is too compelling to

Simultaneously, Wells Fargo is acting in the courts to challenge provisions in the pro-posed takeover by First Bank that would entail large penalties two-thirds of one of its shares if either side decided to pull out. Mr Hazen also warned that First Interstate shareholders would be solicited to vote in favour of

the revised Wells Fargo offer. Under its revised offer, Wells Fargo, America's 17th-largest bank and number two in California, would exchange roughly

for each share of First Interstate stock, more than its original offer of five-eighths of a share.

If it succeeds in consuming First Interstate, Wells Fargo, with 861 branches, could close many of the overlapping branches and cut costs by an estimated \$700m.

£100m stake for Louis-Dreyfus

JOHN SHEPHERD

Robert Louis-Dreyfus will personally hold a £100m stake in Adidas following the flotation of the German sports company in which he fronted a management buy-in two years ago.

The flotation, the secondlargest by a German company. has been oversubscribed 11 times. The 27.3 million shares on offer have been priced at DM68 (£30.56) each, right at the top of the expected range.

which started at DM59. Adidas is valued at DM3.1bn (£1,4bn) by the flotation price. Sogedim, a company controlled by Mr Louis-Dreyfus, will retain a 30.8 per cent stake, worth £424m, in Adidas. Mr Louis-Dreyfus owns 24 per cent of Sogedim, and has agreed not to

The scramble for shares was not confined to German institutions and nationals, who bought almost one-third of the shares on offer. UK institutions bought 20 per cent, and demand was heavy in America, home to two of the company's biggest ri-

vals - Nike and Reebok. Shares will be listed on the Frankfurt bourse, and they are also expected to be quoted on the SEAQ International service offered by the Stock Exchange.

A listing in Paris is also planned. Most of the money raised will be used to repay loans from venture capitalists, led by Credit Lyonnais, who funded the leveraged 1993 buy-in. The

original amounts loaned to Mr Louis-Dreyfus, a former Saatchi & Saatchi chief executive, and his co-investors, has never been disclosed.

The flotation caps an eventful few years for Adidas, which was in considerable financial trouble when it was run by Bernard Tapie, the disgraced former football manager and French politician.

Pentland Group, the UK sporting goods company that made hundreds of millions of pounds in the Eighties from an investment in Reebok, abandoned a £215m takeover bid for Adidas in 1992 when it uncovered "serious problems" after spending three months examining the books.

Adidas eventually reported a loss of DM135m for 1992 on sell any more Adidas shares for turnover of DM2.7bn. However, the compa have changed sharply since then and in 1994 sales of DM3.2bn yielded taxable profits of DM151m.

The recovery has continued, and profits in the first six months of this year from sales of football boots, footballs and other sports kit exceeded the total for the whole of 1994 at DM160m.

Adidas, best known for its football boots, recently signed a sponsorship deal with Newcastle United, current leaders of the Premier League in England. Other sponsorships have been signed with the Olympic squads for Germany, France and Great Britain.

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Thumper, Sally and Chipmunk come to market

NIGEL COPE

Thumper the bunny rabbit and Sally the scorpion are coming to market; the stock market, that is. In what must rank as one of the more unusual stock market listings of recent years, Pet City, a chain of 34 out-of-town pet shops is seeking a listing on AIM, the Alternative Investment market for smaller companies. Dealings are expected to commence next month.

In addition to the standard fare of budgies, gerbils and guinea pigs, the warehousestyle outlets also do a nice line in iguanas, tarantulas, chipmunks and other "alternative

A tarantula "starter kit", including glass case, thermal heated pad (and tarantula) is available at £3299. A Chipmunk kit costs £99,99, while the more standard goldfish set is a bargain Trafalgar House sheds 450 jobs at Davy

£9.99. "We try and make our shops fun," says Richard North-cott, the chairman. "I defy anyone to bring a child and not buy

Cats and dogs, however, are not sold. Customers are re-ferred to breeders and rehabilitation centres instead. Pet City is raising £10m from

the float which should value the company at around £50m. It aims to spend the proceeds on expansion. The group is planning to open 300 of the 15,000 sq ft outlets by 2003 and capture a large slice of the fragmented pet shop market. The company made operating profits of £20,000 on sales of £45m in the 12 months to July but has been spending the bulk of its profits

on opening new stores. Mr Northcott says Pet City, similar to American stores Pet-Co and Pet Mart, could become the pet equivalent of Toys R Us. Kingfisher in 1981 for £20m.



creepy alternative: Pet City costs £32.99

Photograph: Planet Earth

a "category killer" that be-comes the destination shop for pet provisions. The UK pet market is worth £3bn a year and there are around 600 independent pet shops.

Pet City was founded in 1989 by Roger Pedder, now chairman of Clark's Shoes and Giles Clarke, Pet City's chief executive, who founded Majestic Wine Warehouses. Mr Northcon founded Dodge City (the DIY chain that was later renamed B&O) which he sold to

"The pet market reminds me of the DIY market in the 1970s when there were no really big players" he says. However, the group will have to overcome strict planning regulations on out-of-town developments if it is to reach its expansion target.

Retail analysts were withholding judgement on the chain's prospects."I suppose people might drive out of town if they can get things cheaper for their pets, one said. "But do people comparison-shop for

All the redundancies at Poole

are full-time employees. The

site principally undertakes de-

sign work for aluminium and

steel rolling milk. Current work

will be transferred to Stockton.

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JOHN SHEPHERD Trafalgar House, the financial-

ly troubled conglomerate, is making 450 staff redundant at Davy International, the ill-fated engineering business bought in 1991. Most of the job losses are at Davy's site at Poole, Dorset, which is losing money

and will be closed.

Davy has 1,250 staff employed at Poole and two other sites in Stockton in the Northeast and Sheffield, Yorkshire. Sixty staff are being sacked at

There are plans to re-locate up to 200 of the 430 staff at Poole, although the company expects only slightly more than 100 to take up the offer. The redundancies form part

of plans by Trafalgar, which also owns the Cunard shipping line and has interests in construction, to tackle the cost base head-on. The financial cost and eventual savings of the restructuring at Davy, however, will not be disclosed until Trafalgar's group annual results are

Stockton and 75 at Sheffield. released next month. Investors tive environment in which it saw little in yesterday's annonncement to change their negative views on Trafalgar, which is 26 per cent-owned by Hongkong Land. The depressed share price eased 0.25p

Michael Foster, chief executive of Davy, said: "It was essential to take action to secure the future of the business." He added that in recent years Davy's cost base and operating

priate to the "highly competi-

A spokesman said that competitive tendering world-wide for design work had become intense, particularly from German companies "who have been more successful than us". Davy had not won enough work "to structure had become inappro-

operated".

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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Why BAA needs to spread its wings

spread its wings to other parts of the world. It is not that the numbers were poor, but they did show the first signs of slowdown and highlighted the increase in September.

Pre-tax profits at half-way. up worth of property disposals, as well as a higher rate of interest capitalisation, at £27m, than the market had

£698m. Innovative marketing and the costs to BAA. opening of new shopping outlets meant that income per passenger now averages £4.10. up from £3.96. market, and a string of beauty centres is planned.

Passenger numbers in the first half rose 5.8 per cent, but the poor charter market for Mediterranean holi-

BAA's results underlined the need days and competition from the would give earnings of 31.5p, and a for the UK airports operator to Eurostar train service took their toll. forward multiple of around 15. April's passenger growth was 11.6 per cent, but has slowed each month, ending with a 3.4 per cent

dangers of being exposed to the vagaries of one pretty mature market.

Pre-tax profits at half-way, up lieves it is on course for annual 10.9 per cent to £294m, were a shade growth of 5-6 per cent, which looks on the low side and boosted by £9m achieveable given the 8 or 9 per cent growth its largest customer, British Airways, is producing.

But other domestic pressures remain, such as delays to the possible The good news - apart from the construction of a new terminal at 10 per cent dividend rise - was that Heathrow; and the collapse of the the retail division continues to grow. Heathrow Express tunnel always with revenues up 5.8 per cent to raises concerns about additional

Future growth hinges largely on international expansion, and here progress is slow. BAA has secured Perfume sales from BAA's airports management control of Indianapolis account for 20 per cent of the UK airport in the US, but hopes of taking over some of Australia's priva-tised airports are on hold while the government settles political in-fighting.

Full-year profits of about £430m

The premium reflects BAA's long-term growth prospects, but that leaves it open to further hiccups.

British Steel gloom justified

It is tempting to look at British Steel's almost fourfold increase in half-year pre-tax profits, 50 per cent dividend increase, prospective 7.9 per cent yield and forward price/earnings multiple of 4 and draw the conclusion that the market has overdone the gloom in knocking the shares 16 per cent off their recent

high in less than two months. Tempting, that is, until you look closely at the chairman Brian Moffat's statement about second-half trading and realise that, while the Eufor free fall, the best that can be expected is a two-year plateau before chairman's comments is worrying. A months to September. After a oneropean steel market is not headed for free fall, the best that can be ex-

recession sets in, perhaps in 1998. How often has an over-stocking blip, laughed off by over-confident company bosses, been the precursor

of a full-blooded downturn? Plainly, we are headed for the top of the steel cycle, even if more optimistic analysts believe this time will be a long flat peak followed by a less than usually severe slump thanks to the structural changes that have accompanied the move of much of the European industry from the state to

the private sector. That is the assumption lying be-hind British Steel's rapid acceleration of its capital expenditure programme, which at £400m this year matches the high rates of the late 1980s. Not everyone is as confident as Mr Moffat that late 1996 will be seen as the optimum time in the cycle for the company's Tuscaloosa plant in the US to come on stream.

It is a peculiarity of stock markets that the time to be most cautious about a share is when the numbers

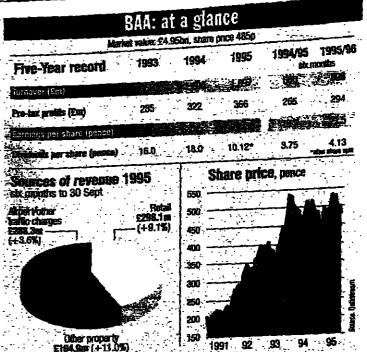
yield of almost 8 per cent is no good if the capital value of the shares falls even a small amount. Time to sell.

Sidlaw feeling the squeeze

This year's profits collapse at Sidlaw appears to vindicate those who questioned management's ability to handle the £79m acquisition of Courtaulds' packaging interests two years ago. That deal doubled the size of the company, turning a small Scottish mini-conglomerate into one of Europe's top five flexible packaging

But since then the industry has been squeezed between soaring raw material costs and price deflation and the £2.14m cost of the ratio-from its mainly food industry customers. The resulting pain apparent in Sidlaw's first-half results

Despite its effect on margins, has continued into the second.



original fute business earlier this year and the £2.14m cost of the ratio-

off £5.24m loss on the disposal of the after last year's £23.7m rights issue

on a prospective multiple of around 17 if profits top £8m this year. Share-holders who heeded cash calls at 275p Despite its effect on margins, holders who heeded cash calls at 175 management has persisted with a and 180p since 1993 must hope remaining the aggressive incent buying from the aggressive in-vestor PDFM might herald better times, or a takeover, or both.

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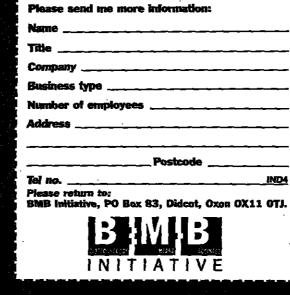
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IN BRIEF

Carr's Milling shares rise on results

Shares in Carr's Milling, the agriculture, milling and engineering group, jumped 15p to 300p yesterday when it announced near-doubled profits for the year to September. Pre-tax profits leapt from £1.6m to £3m on sales up 14 per cent at £84.7m. The seven farm machinery branches produced record profit levels and fertilizer sales were also strong. Robertsons Bakers and the Dick-inson Coffee Houses business were both sold during the year.

Cranswick lifts profits to £1.46m

Cranswick, the animal feed manufacturer, increased pre-tax profits by 11 per cent to £1.46m in the six months to September. Sales were up 18 per cent to £66m. The agribusiness division performed well in the first half and a new piglet feed factory was commissioned during the summer. Rising raw material prices are being clawed back though cost efficiencies rather than higher selling prices.

£32m property buy by Green

Dublin-based Green Property has acquired £32m of industrial property from Standard Life in a joint venture with GE Capital. The portfolio produces £4.2m a year in rent and consists principally of five industrial estates in London.

House of Fraser director appointed

House of Fraser, the department store group that includes Army & Navy and Dickins & Jones, has appointed Rebecca Sharp as group merchandise director. Ms Sharp, 46, was previously senior vice-president and general merchandise manager at Neiman Marcus, the Dallas-based group of department stores.

	COMPAI	NY RESULT	'S		
	Temoyer £	Pre-tax£	EP\$	Dividend	
BAA (1)	698m (660m)	294m (285m)	21.5p (19.2p)	4.125p (3.75p)	
British Steel (I)	3.61bn (2.82bn)	550m (159m)	19.26p (6.49p)	3p (2p)	
Carr's Milling (F)	85.8m (90.7m)	3.0m (1.8m)	29.1p (14p)	8.5p (6.2p)	
Criticality (I)	20.0m (17.2m)	2.95m (2.35m)	14.5p (12.3p)	3.5p (3p)	
Crateswick (i)	66.5m (56,2m)	1.46m (1.31m)	7.2p (6.1p)	2.6p (2.45p)	
Laccion indeptrial (I)	6.40m (4.39m)	1.79m (0.91m)	9.2p (8.6p)	4p (3p)	
Renaid (I)	87.3m (70.9m)	8.1m (4.6m)	9.6p (5.5p)	2.5p (1.2p)	
Sidiaw (I)	273m (262m)	-0.11m (14.7m)	-1.7p (20.2p)	11.0p (10.8p)	
James Smith (I)	2.12m (1.65m)	1.51m (1.33m)	4.6p (4.1p)	1.87p (1.7p)	
Tribity Care (I)	2.88m (2.01m)	0.22m (0.31m)	6.9p (14.8p)	1.5p (1.5p)	
Littly Cable (F)	79.5m (54,5m)	5.0m (4.2m)	2.41p (1.84p)	0.39p (0.54p)	
Warde Storeys (F)	94.9m (79.6m)	7.16m (8.20m)	18.8p (23.9p)	17.250 (17.250)	
(F) - Final (I) - Instaction	(N) - Mae morths				

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business

Nigeria fuels prospect of a sharp fall in oil price



ECONOMIC VIEW

HAMISH McRAE

Cuspension from the Com-Omonwealth is one thing: an oil embargo is something clse. The first was easy and swift to accomplish for it simply required a vote, and there are few costs imposed on the other Commonwealth members. The second would also only require a vote, though at the UN rather than the Commonwealth, but to make it effective would need a high degree of agreement by all the large consumers of oil. It is a pure political judgement

whether that consensus exists. We will see. Meanwhile there is an economic judgement to be made: what impact might possible sanctions against Nigeria have upon its oil exports? It matters because the outrage at Nigeria's action coincides with great tension in the oil market. Put at its simplest, the clear possibility facing the delegates at next week's Opec meeting is that the oil price might fall sharply. If that were to happen, Nigeria would one of the main

causes of the collapse. The oil story runs like this.

The key is how restrained Opec will be in its production

Since the last Opec meeting in June the oil price has been stuck in the \$17-\$18 range. Low US stocks and higher demand have balanced higher production from non-Opec producers. countries. Looking ahead, consumption will creep up, but so too will non-Opec supplies. The key therefore is how restrained Opec will be in its production, and whether Iraq will disrupt the market with another

embargo-busting oil sale. In recent months two main Opec members have pumped above their quotas, Venezeula and Nigeria. (In addition Saudi Arabia has been producing more for winter storage, but this is not counted as supply until it is sold.) To hold oil prices in their present range, therefore. requires not just a continuation of present production, but for Venezeula and Nigeria to cut back and for Saudi Arabia to drop production as it runs down

the winter stockpile.
The judgement of many oil analysts for some weeks has been that the oil price might fall out of its present trading range. For example, writing ahead of the executions in Nigeria, JP Morgan in New York was warning of a 50/50 chance of just such a fall. Its judgement has been that without cuts by Venezuela and Nigeria the rest of Opec would increase production, however strong the rational case for holding back supply to shore up the price. Its estimates of the supply/demand balance for Opec crude (world consumption less non-Gree pro-

sumption less non-Opec production) is shown in the charts.

If Opec next week cannot persuade its members not to cheat on their quotas, the only in heavy higher production issue is how higher production is accomplished. A unilateral increase by the countries which have lost most market share (those who have adhered most closely to their quotas) could push prices below the \$15 point before some recovery took place; an organised quota increase agreed at the meeting, on the other hand, would result in a fall to perhaps \$16 a barrel. If, looking further ahead. Iraq negotiates some deal, the price would be weaker still.

This 50/50 outlook is undoubtedly changed by the Nigerian executions. In the

ity, no more at this stage, of an oil embargo on Nigeria. Were that to happen, it would of course underpin the price in just the same way that Iraq's exclusion from the world oil market has done. In the short term. however, the hostile world reaction to the executions may encourage Nigeria to increase its production - to over-produce to an even greater extent than at present. That oil will find its wa on to the world market what ever the reaction of Western consumers. Other Opec members, already angry at Nigeria, commodate it now.

Let's accept as a starting point that JP Morgan position of a 50/50 chance of a sharp fall in the price. The balance of probability therefore seems to me to have shifted further towards a fall. The profile of that decline is hard to call, but if this argument is right it is now odds-on that the oil price will be, say, 10 per cent lower next spring than it is at present.
This may well coincide with

a similar fall in commodity prices. Non-oil commodity prices reached a peak in February this year and have come back about 5 per cent on average since then. Softer-thanexpected growth in the OECD countries will hold back prices

Some calculations by HSBC Markets suggest a further fall of 10 per cent between now and the end of next year. Even if growth does pick up, HSBC still expects some fall, and this despite a rise in demand from non-OECD

Put these trends in the oil market and the commodity markets together and the surprises seem likely to be on the downside. Result: lower world inflation next year than is currently factored into world markets.

What might upset this? There seem to be two main unknowns. First and most obvious is the reaction to the Nigerian executions. If an oil embargo were agreed and if it were supported by reasonable discipline among the other Opec members (so that they did not swiftly "use up" Nigeria's quota), then it is quite hard to see the fall in the price suggested above.

But as non-Opec supply in-exorably increases and the Opec share of the market is compressed, it is equally hard to see a surge in the price sufficient to

These trends could result in lower inflation next year

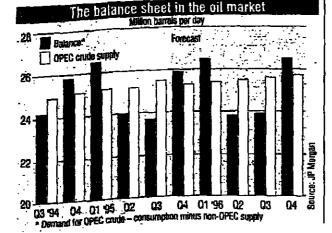
generate a sharp rise in world inflation. And eventually Nigeria would return to the fold, as

will some day Iraq.
The second unknown is the demand on all commodities, including oil, from rapid eco-

nomic growth in East Asia.

The region is resource-poor, and there is no sign yet of growth tailing off. We are talking about at least another genbefore it pulls back to the 2-3 per cent growth rates of Europe and North America. So there will be a strong underlying demand for resources, which may eventually reverse the long decline in commodi-

But this is all a long way off. In the next few months the balance of probability is for lower oil and commodity prices, and that equation was tilted a little further by the sad events in





Victor Obugu: Adding another prop to business interests

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Blair's trail baffles the pundits

Society of Sculptors (flogging sculpture to business) and

Lambeth Council, which has

set up shop with the Brixton

Project. Heather Rabatts.

chief executive of Lambeth,

once the looniest left coun-

cil, was braving the lion's den

with Bernadette Marjoram,

Then it was to the Royal

Society for the Protection of

Birds' butterfly conservation

business) before saying hello

project stand, (seriously, they re raising money from

to the British American

chief executive of Brixton

Challenge.

Tony Blair's royal walkabout at the Confederation of British Industry barn dance had Walworth Road watchers puzzling over the political essage behind it.

Meandering around the exhibitions, the Labour leader's visit to the Rover stand (proprietor BMW) was swiftly followed by one to the Engineering Employers Fed-eration, the Department of Education and Employment British Rail's London development unit and a firm of consultants. All standard

Business Council, the Volun-To the King's Road tonight for cocktails with Victor Ubogu, the rhinoceros of a bon viveur, who plays rugby for England. The 16-stone forward has persuaded City Index to spousor his sports bar, Shoeless Joe's, in return for allowing spread betting into his emporium. The financial bookmakers are particularly excited by this initiative. City Index text screens will provide constantly updating betting prices while revellers watch live matches on the bar's Super screen.

Mr Ubogu is inviting the touring South Africans to turn up ahead of Saturday's international against England – presumably on the grounds that if we don't beat them on the pitch we

teer Reserve Forces and a brief word with Michael Perry of Unilever on the way out. Make of it what you will.

Robustly defending his conroversial deal with BT's Sir Iain Vallance to provide public access to the information superhighway Mr Blair was rudely interrupted by the inevitable mobile telephone, which jaugled into life some-

"That may be the chairnan of BT on the phone there - I hope I got this right," quipped Mr Blair.

mother myth shattered. Barings, the merchant bank that once turned down a potential employee "because his tie looked too complicated" reveals that it is not the Oxbridge enclave that has been thought. Three-quar-ters of the bank did not go to the universities, a Barings source claims, offering the clearest indication as to why the Cazenove talks failed.

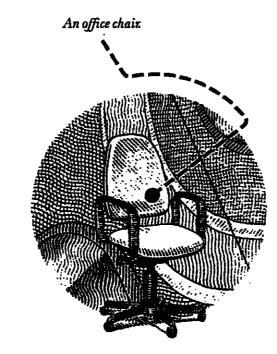
Now safely in the bosom of the Dutch, the bank intends to introduce the most efficient, low-cost settlement system ever. One was under the impression that it had aiready achieved this - they don't come much cheaper than Nick Leeson's one-man settlement system.

Much admired by executives visiting the West Coast (it has a fax machine in every room) there has neverthel been something not quite right about the Beverly Prescott Hotel. And we are not talking about the Jerry Garcia suite, which houses some of the musician's druginduced works of art. Rather of guests who look like they have been subjected to unspeakable violence.

All can be revealed at last. According to local taxi driers the sixth floor of the hotel houses a rehabilitation wing for patients recovering from cosmetic surgery.

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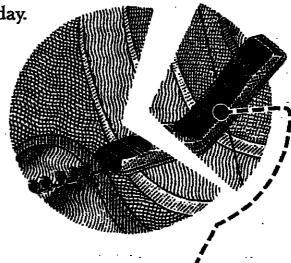
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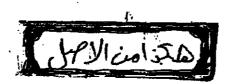


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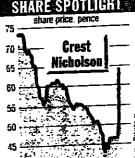
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SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Talk of swoop on Woolwich leads to a run on banks

Rumours that another big deal is being prepared sent a frisson of excitement through bank Society and the First National Finance Corporation hire purchase group.

shares in late trading. Banks were one of the bestperforming sectors as the stock market appeared to get wind that one of the clearers was planning to descend on Woolwich Building Society which. left to its own devices, is likely to convert to a bank.

It is known the high street banks are looking closely at the possibility of building society acquisitions; so far of the old-established banks only Lloyds Bank has taken the plunge,

buying C&G.
Abbey National, which converted from building society to bank, and Bank of Scotland emerged as the favourites to

For Bank of Scotland, which moved into Australian banking in September, Woolwich would provide the domestic retail

spread it needs. The finance and bank sectors have been on the boil for much of the year as rumours of bids have circulated. The takeover frenzy among US banks has merely added to the air of breathless excitement. National Westminster Bank

is thought to be on the verge of selling its US banking arm for more than 12bn and Lloyds Bank has bid for TSB although some expect a counter-offer. Among fund managers Gartmore is in bid talks and

many suspect Mercury Asset likely predator.

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Généralé Strauss Turnbull

gained 10p to 218p and Berkeley 13p to 437p. Crest Nichol-

son, with the added incentive

of bid speculation, jumped 14p to 60p. Redrow, firm at

125p, was rumoured to be

up 5p to 86p and Caradon 9p

higher at 189p following the

The FT-SE 100 index end-

contemplating a strike.

management reshuffle.

Developments

made positive noises.

SG Warburg have surrendered their independence and there is speculation that Hambros, expected to report dismal figures together with a dividend cut tomorrow, could be the next to fall.

Abbey gained 15p to 568p: Bank of Scotland 12p to 261p; Lloyds 4p to 814p and TSB 2p to 396p. Hambros fell 10p to Royal Insurance was an

other to attract speculation attention, up 10p to 372p. Builders also moved higher fault. Whitehall figures suggesting more leeway for an interest rate cut also contributed

Trading, however, was at a low ebb with deals in just five shares swelling volume to a seemingly respectable level.
An obscure investment

trust, Investors Capital Trust, accounted for approaching a third of total turnover. Almost 156 million shares were printed and 55.1 million warrants. The shares came from British Assets Trust which, as part of an investment shake-up, announced its intention a year Building materials also made headway, with Tarmac ago to cut its controlling In-

and an off-shore fund. It has 39.96 per cent of Investors, up

British Assets, firm at 95p, raised £67.5m from the placing, spread among institutions

ington (8.5p.). With the Nigerian crisis likely to lead to higher crude oil prices Shell, managed to ignore its embarrassing involvement in the crisis state, gaining 2p to 739p. But Paterson Zochonis, which has about 20 per

cent of its business in Nigeria, fell 10p to 445p.
Yale Catto, the chemical group, was busily traded as employee shares became available and Astec (BSR), the Hong Kong-based electronic group, was little changed at 125p fol-lowing a London investment presentation. Next, the retailer, jumped 11p to 418p, a peak, after Credit Lyonnais

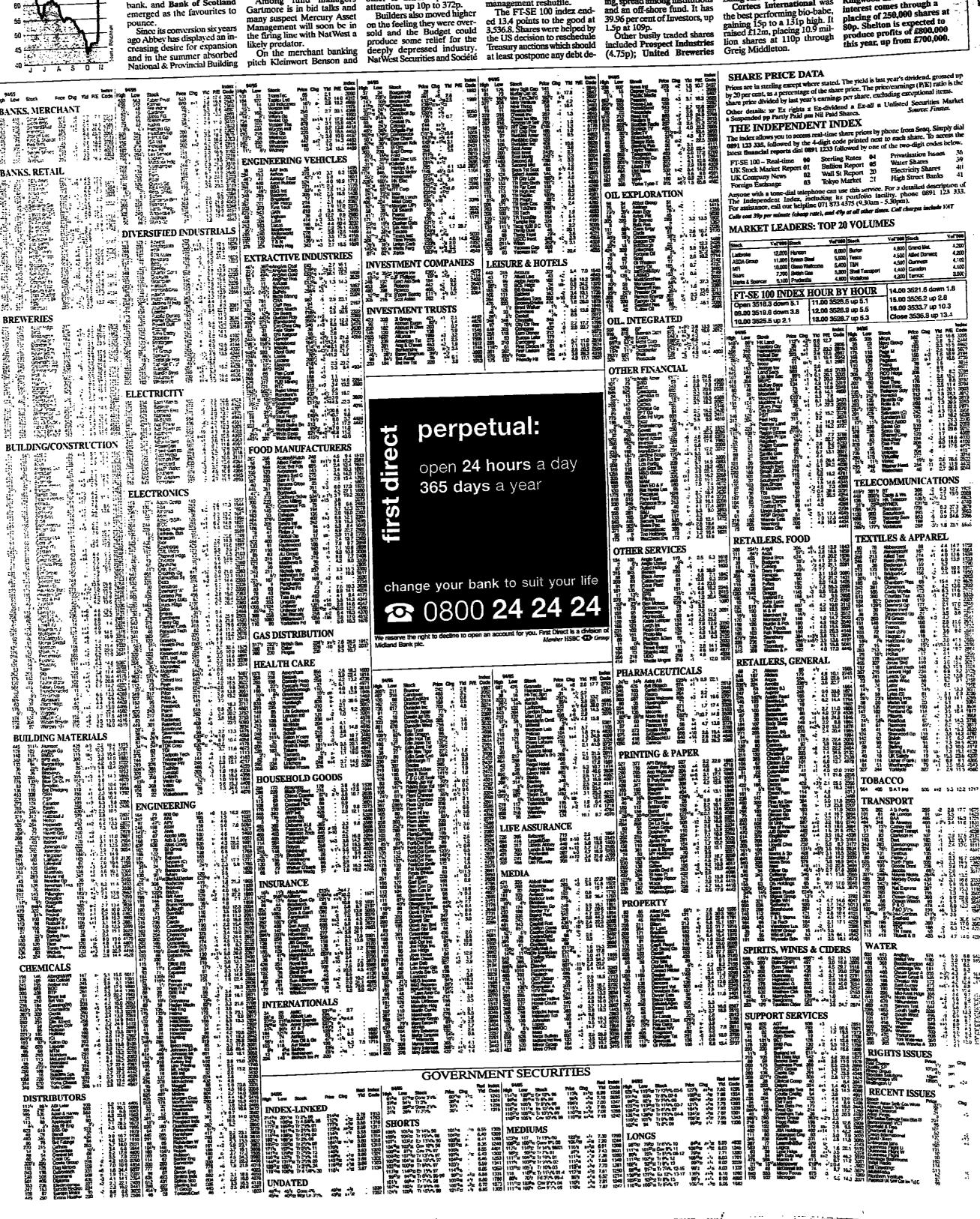
Laing said buy. Cortecs International was

(1.5p), Media Business (4.25p) and, once again, Black & Edg-

Nigel Wray, the entrepreneurial investor who is pumping £2.5m into Saracens rugby club, has also set his sights on Frank Usher, the fashion group. He has put together a 5.33 per cent shareholding through market buying. Usher increased profits by 49 per cent to £2m last year. The shares gained 2p to 180p. Another Wray vehicle, Carlisle, held at 15.5p. It is expected to announce a reverse takeover

TAKING STOCK

Martin Shelton, a Leedsbased diaries and calendars group, jumped 18p to 103p as David Williams, another entrepreneurial investor, took a 5 per cent stake through his Ringwood Investments. His interest comes through a placing of 250,000 shares at



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MOTOR RACING: Time is running out for the country's leading driver after a bad year for the British, argues Derick Allsop

Hill has one chance left to climb the mountain

ut of defeat, new hope and resolve: the old ethos s a pillar to lean on and no one is in greater need of support at the end of this Formula One world championship than Damon Hill.

Success at the final grand prix, in Australia, served to shore up Hill's self belief and, perhaps more importantly, his stature within the Williams-Renault team. They now have all winter to complete the restoration work.

Hill and Williams have been soundly beaten this year and the championship, as a contest, has consequently suffered. No combination was better equipped to challenge Michael Schumacher and Benetton-Renault, but too often that potential was squandered by driver, or team,

Mutual dissatisfaction un-dermined the Hill-Williams effort. He felt they did not afford him due consideration, they gave the impression they regarded him almost unworthy of the dynasty.

The contrast with Benetton, where Schumacher was the focus of the operation, compounded Hill's frustration, yet the more he spoke about it the more resentful and resistant Williams appeared to become. Alas for the Englishman, erratic performances tended to throw his claims back into his face.

And all the time Schumacher, a smirk seemingly fixed on his face, pounded out his superiority. He won his second championship by a distance and equalled Nigel Mansell's record of nine victories in a season.

The pick was probably Spa,



where he mesmerised the field from 16th on the grid. His car control and judgment, on slick tyres, on a damp track, were the stuff of greatness.

If the destiny of the crown was determined early, Formula One consoled itself with a spectacle worthy of the name. The front of the starting grid 1996

BENETTON Eddie Irvine Gerhard Berge

WILLIAMS MCLAREN

Devid Coutthard After the Belgian grand prix, we saw one of the most dazzling pe-

riods in the sport for years. Overall it has been a disappointing season for the British. David Coulthard found an exand 12th place represent an untra gear too late to involve himself in the championship and still paid heavily for lapses of concentration. He loses the benefit of the Williams next season, moving to McLaren-Mercedes, but at least he has a job

and time on his side. Johnny

Herbert and Mark Blundell, re-

leased by Benetton and Mc-Laren respectively, are seeking work and may never get further chances with top teams. Eddie Irvine will feel 10 points

JORDAN

Martin Brundle

STELL LOOKING

Johnny Herbert

Mark Blundell

satisfactory return and Martin Brundle's limited programme for Ligier-Mugen inevitably consigned him to a bit part.

Alesi, who made a long-awaited breakthrough in Canada, Mika Häkkinen and Heinz-Harald Frentzen all presented, be-



Hill: year of frustration

evidence of burgeoning talent beyond these shores.

The serious injuries sustained by Häkkinen at Adelaide were also a reminder that, for all the stringent safety restraints imposed following the tragedies of last year, this remains a perilous tween the abberations, further pursuit. By and large, the reg-

the new-found confidence in the ufacturers this winter. pit lane has been bolstered by the quality of the racing in the later stages of the season.

Formula One is therefore optimistic about 1996. Schumacher may be a league above the rest but he has to raise the level of performance and reliability at Ferrari to complete a hat-trick of championship wins. He embarks upon the task with a first run for the team on Thursday and continues in earnest, testing with a V10powered car next week.

Benetton, intent on proving there is life and glory after Schumacher, have two possible contenders in Alesi and Gerhard Berger, and also get down to business next week, while McLaren, it has to be assumed. will be the stronger for not

ulations have worked well and having to change engine man-

The team bound to be at the head of the field are Williams, and Hill knows he cannot afford to misdirect what might be a final shot at the title. He has the car and he now has the experience to help carry him over obstacles - actual or imagined within his camp.

One barrier will come in the shape of his new partner, Jacques Villeneuve, another ambitious tyro, but Hill has the momentum to leap clear. How soon the Great Race beck-

ons again...

Mika Hākkinen, who suffered severe head injuries in practice for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix, has been released from intensive care. He is expected to remain in hospital for

Cheltenham jumps to the defence of its new race

Racing

GREG WOOD

Cheltenham occupies such a special place in the hearts of racing's followers that it rarely suffers concerted criticism, but the course was forced on to the defensive yesterday over the new cross-country circuit which has been built - at considerable cost – on its infield.

The first race over the new obstacles, the Sporting Index Chase on Sunday, generated publicity of the worst sort, as Leagaune was destroyed after breaking his back at the bank and ditch which is the new course's centrepiece. The same burrier also proved impassable for It's A Snip, the recent winner of the gruelling Velka Pardubicka cross-country running to represent the race's race in the Czech Republic.

Yesterday, though. Peter Me-Neile, Cheltenham's marketing director, insisted that "everyone agrees that it was a straight- just one outing, particularly

roborated by all the jockeys who rode in the race, though of course it was most unfortunate."

At a time when many courses are considering even whether to persevere with water jumps on their chase circuits, it seems strange that Cheltenham, which hardly needs to raise it profile, has invested a six-figure sum in the new venture. McNeile believes that the turnout for Sunday's race - 14 runners demonstrates that there is a demand for this type of racing, which is popular throughout the rest of Europe, though it must be said that with the exception of McGregor The Third, the winner, and Docklands Express, sponsors, the quality of Sunday's

race was painfully poor. But it would be harsh to write off the new course after

forward racing injury, which could happen at any fence, at any course, at any time. That was corroborated by all the jockeys who obstacles, and the laurel bushes which have been planted to mark out the course, are still growing, and will not mature fully for several years. Racing, meanwhile, is far too conservative to accept any new concept

in less than a decade and a half. McNeile does not anticipate any immediate changes either to the bank or the other new obstacles. "The jockeys were very pleased with the way the fences rode," he said. "Leagaune had been over just the same sort of obstacle at Punchestown. It's just inevitable that occasionally a horse will make a mistake." For all the money and optimism, though, another fatality, albeit co-incidental, in next year's renewal of the Sporting Index Chase would probably reduce the new course to the status of an ornamental garden.

The Festival meeting at Chel-

land's ante-post backers following reports of a set-back to his stable-mate, Fortune And

unsuitable for Vintage Crop, the 1993 Melbourne Cup winner. Dermot Weld, his trainer, announced yesterday that Vintage Crop will not be campaigned over hurdles this season, adding to the disappointment of Ire-

tune And Fame, fourth to Alderbrook in the Champion Hurdle last season, rapped his near-fore leg last week. "It's not that serious," Weld said, though his subsequent comments were notably guarded. "It's still very early but he has definitely not been ruled in or out of the Champion Hurdle yet." Fortune And Fame remains a 14-1 chance for the Festival with William Hill.

WETHERBY -

1.10 Reine De La Chasse 1.40 The Minister (nb) 21.0 Moonshine Dancer 2.40 Pats Minstrel 3.10 Malawi 3.40 Magslad

GODNG: Good.

Left-hand oval circuit. Run-in of 200yds slightly uphill.

Ranceourse is north-east of lown on B1224 near junction of A58 and A1. ADMISSION: Club \$12 (accompanied under-18s free); Tatternalis \$7; Course \$22 (OAPs \$1) (cars, including up to four adults \$6). CAR PARK: Free.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Magnind (3.40) won a Sedge-Reid on Tuesday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Two For One (3.10) has been sen 211 miles by Miss L Russell from Milmathort, Tayside, Euplayida

(1.10 Suffo		en sent 174 miles by Bob Jones from Wickhambrook,
1	10	TARGET YEAR 2000 JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m
1	12	DAWN MESSION (17) (CO) (BF) M H Easterby 11 5 L Wyer
2	122	ROYAL EXPRESSION (20) (U) Mrs M Reveley 11.5
3		BOLD TOP B Rotrael 10 12 R Supple
4		CERACUSA J Marcine 11) 12
5	6	DOZEN DIRHAM (59) J Noton 10 12W Ry
5		BMBE771ER S Golings 10 12 A Dobbin
7		IN 6000 FAITH J Quint 10 12M Driver
8		LEEDONS PARK M W Easterty 10 12R Sanitty
9		MAJOR SMUGETT M W Easterby 10 12
10		MITTERNIC (45) W Convention 10 12
11	a	SADARAH (12) C Smoth 10 12
12		SHSRQY S Kettlewell 10 12B Sharey
13		SPANISH STEPS M W Easterby 10 12
14		WISDOM (17) K Morgan 10 12
15	00	CHAMPAGNE N DREAMS (12) D Nicholis 10 7 S Mason
16		EIRMILLIA Bot Jones 10 7V Smith
17	4	MELL THYSE (12) Mrs M Reveloy 10 7P Novem
IB .		MISS MADELON M W Easterby 10 7E Calleghan (7)
10		DEFINE DE LA CHARSE SER IT NAMES (CO. 10 7

SETTEM2: 3-1 Dawn Mission, 7-2 Royal Expression, 5-1 Raine De La Cismen, 7-1 Sherqy, 8-1 Mill Toyane, 10-1 Ciracusa, 14-1 Euphylle, 16-1 Others

KNARESBOROUGH NOVICE HTCAP CHASE 1.40 KNARESBOROUGH NOVICE HTCAP CHASE (CLASS F) £5,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

5 4039- DOMBLE STANDARDS (577) C Parier 7 10 9 ____ B Storey 6 05000-2 CRLTIC SLMER (17) Ms 5 Storey 7 10 7 ___ Richard Guest - 6 declared -BETTENE: 2-1 The Minister, 9-4 San Speaker, 5-2 Celtic Silver, 5-1 Aly Delay, 25-1 River Red, 50-1 Double Standards

2.10 KEN HODGSON BERTHDAY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

Minimum weight: 10st, Two hardisap weight: Gone Away 9st 2lb. BETTRNS: 5-4 Moonshine Dencer, 9-4 (Innivital's Ginger, 4-1 Yacht Clab, 8-1 Emilyacore, 14-1 Gone Away, 20-1 Merryhill Gold

2.40 SEBEL HOUSE GROUP CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £6,500 added 2m

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Pats Minstrel 9st 10ib. BETTING: Evens Pats Minstrel, 6-4 Belstone Fox, 7-2 Solition Lane 3.10 HARROGATE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 110yds

BETTING: 5-4 Two For One, 6-4 Maleni, 9-2 La Fontainbleen, 8-1 Mony-

INTERNATIONAL SPINAL RESEARCH NOVICE 3.40 INTERNATIONAL STRUCK IN Added 2m HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m 00004-1 OLD ALE (19) J Custo 5 11 6

BETTRIC: 7-2 Mediad. 4-1 Choosed Curtains, 9-2 Larg Fort. 1 ? Pud 6

11 25506 TREESH (RES) (RI) What 5 9 ______ D Harrison 9 _____ 11 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Sombrotte, 7-2 Big Bands, Are Back, 5-1 Don't Get Conget, 6-1 Takeshi, 7-1 Monty, 8-1 Jaba, 19-1 Erraet, 20-1 others

2.20 WANTAGE NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,400 added 2YO 6F

023551 VILLAGE NATIVE (FR) (B) (D) K Dunning am-Brown 9 6 (7ex)

14 56456 DANCING BACK [12] Florige 7 12 Quinn 10
- 14 declared BETTING: 5-1 Moi Cassert, 6-1 Village Methes, 13-2 Times of Times, 7-1
Issistingest, Amber Fort, 8-1 Time For Tea, Beary, 12-1 others

2.50 LAMBOURN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 2m

3.20 MIDDLEHAM LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F)
(DIV II) £3,150 addled 1m 2f

1 304200 Dia REDRRY (B) (C) Mrs N Macculey 4 9 4 M Fenton 2
030001 FORT WORK (RR) (8) (C) R Flower 4 9 4 M Morris 12
3 531346 STALLED (RE) (S) (C) P William 5 9 4 R Cochrane 9
4 0-002100 TIDRAMALA (RS) R Ingam 4 9 4 W Woods 7
5 405035 LIADY HERRIFELD (R) (D) M Ryan 4 9 1 M Clock 5
6 260001 COVEN MOON (RS) (D) D Morris 5 8 13 M Take 2.0
7 50-0000 ARME (RE) (22) G L Moors 3 8 11 M Wholen (S) 1
8 0-00050 DIALEDSS (27) H COMpringly 48 111 M Wholen (S) 1
9 006302 DORBLE RISH (RE) (RS) (RS) T MRS 3 8 11 M Fillon 4
10 546055 MAMPUL (21) J Horheston 3 8 11 S Vigetster 8
11 240130 BANCERS DAUGHTER (TS) J Amout 3 8 8 T Quiton 13
13 333000 BY THE BRY (47) C Bery 3 8 6 D Herrison 11
-13 declared BETTIME: 9-2 Bekers Daughter, Double Rash, 5-1 Fort Mnoc, 6-1 Lady Highfield, 8-1 Mantel, 10-1 Stallot, Never So RRE, 12-1 others

3.50 MALTON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,400 added 1m

230403 MR FRIDSTY (6) (7) W Jornson 3 9 9 ______ Sanders 8 60-412 REPORTY (6) (7) W Jornson 3 9 9 ______ Sanders 8 60-412 REPORTY (251) (2) (8) Local Humangton 3 9 9 _____ Polication 7 - 22-402 SACLY SOBER (RR) (8) (RP) P Cole 3 9 8 _____ Polication 7 - 24-402 SACLY SOBER (RR) (8) (RP) P Cole 3 9 8 _____ Polication 7 - 24-402 SACLY SOBER (RR) (8) (82) D filerach Davis 7 9 3 ______ ANNA STURM (RR) (8) (82) D filerach Davis 7 9 3 ______

10 265406 THE LITTLE PERMET (84) (0) A Moore 5 9 2 R Cockresse

0-6 GEOLLY (RE) (17) Dr J Scarge 9 D ... 45 MONTY (17) Macor D Charmel 9 D

144005 SUPREME POWER (4) W Mur 9 7....

OO- ROCKY MELODY (375) P Rochers 9 D...

NEWTON ABBOT

L00 Whitebonnet .30 Certain Angle 3.30 Keano 2.00 GENERAL CRACK (nap) 4.00 Graham Pride 2.30 Whippers Delight

Each-hand, sharp, course with short run-in.

Exerciourse is north of town on A380. Newton Abbot Railway Station (served by London, Paddington) is less than one mile away ADMISSION: Tattersalls \$8.50; Course 5-4. (accompanied under-10s free), CAR PARE: On rails \$1.50, remainder free.

ELEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe — 91 winners from 312 runners gives a success ratio of 1912%; and a loss to a 51 level stake of \$37.19; P J Bobbs — 41 winners, 131 runners, 21 fbs., +\$36.20; P Nichods — 20 winners, 83 runners, 24.1%, +\$36.00; J White — 15 winners, 69 runners, 21.2%, \$48.14.

**LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durnwoody — 47 winners, 165 rides, 28.5%, +\$17.25; Peter Bobbs — 25 winners, 107 rides, 23.4%, -\$11.47; M Pitagerald — 20 winners, 140 rides, 143%, \$9.41; D Bridgwater — 18 winners, 69 rides, 26.1%, -\$19.88.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Head For Heaven (1.00) has been sent 190 miles by R Hust from Lewes, East Sussex: Walfy's Dream (4.00) has been sent 51 miles by A P James from Syre Green, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

1.00 YORK-ROTARSLADES WHO SELLING HURDLE (CLASS F)

	2.00	£2,600 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £1,903
		Chief M Pos & 11 12 D Bridgeste
		A A STANDARD AND A C. HANDLESON & PORT IS 111 17
	- NO - NO	FARRIELD CHOICE (45) (Roger Johns) A Newcombe 4 10 7.
J	. 0	
		Chelica R. 1 Feet Shilling, 8-1 Colette's Chelica

BETTPNE: 3-1 Abertand, 7-2 Whitebornet, 9-2 Head i Mint A Million, 10-1 Communiche Creek, 12-1 orth 1994: Harraste 5 11 6 M Rothams 5-2 IR P C Head FORM GUIDE

WHITESONNET, disappointing last season after running Stoney Valley to a length and a course in a non-seller at Plumpton in January, looked the likely winner of a selling handicap turning for home until Supermick swept by from the second last over the course and disapped 13 days ago. A reproduction of that form would be good snough and it is a bit of disapped 15 days ago. A reproduction of that form would be good snough and it is a bit of disapped 15 days ago. A reproduction of that form would be good snough and it is a bit of production of that form on the south place Commander Creek, and Boogle Bopper (severith) reoperation on 15th and 18th worse serms respectively. Abovered led until overtaken by Proposition for that same view from the structure with the much more and his third to Summerful Special Despring back or dissapped with from much more and his third to Summerful Special of the same hard to sell the same that the seller that the same reproduct of dissapped the same form in selling hundles last season before trying his hand at Full Shifting had some fair form in selling hundles last season before trying his hand at Full Shifting had some fair form in selling hundles last season before trying his hand at Full Shifting had some fair form in selling hundles last season before trying his hand at Full Shifting had some fair form in selling hundles last season before trying his hand at Full Shifting had some fair form in selling hundles last season before trying his hand at Full Shifting had some fair form in selling hundles last season before trying his hand at Full Shifting had some fair form in selling hundles last season before trying his hand at Full Shifting had some fair form in selling hundles last season before trying his hand at Full Shifting had some fair form in selling hundles last season before trying his hand at Full Shifting had some fair form in selling hundles last season before trying his hand at Full Shifting had had been season before trying his part at Full Shifting had had had his part

1.30 BOWRING NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £2,788

BETTRIG: 6-4 Cortain Angle, 11-4 Breechlohil Back, 5-1 Morning Black, 6-2 Playing Trunck, 12-2 Bryan Segos, Smiling Chief, 20-1 Date of Dreams
Bryan Segos, Smiling Chief, 20-1 Date of Dreams
1994: 2 75 - 25 5 11 10 R December 11-2 (ALC Pape) 9ran

FORM GUIDE

Brausbjethill Buck, terriner of the second of his two starts in linsh point-to-points, made a sering start over ferces when staying on to wear down Dandle impower the course and sensing the seven happear with construct in Section for The grey will come on for the run and should be even happear with construct in Section for the grey will come on for the run and should be even happear with DDD; if from the start happear with the point-to-point, but his path was made a local DDD; if from the start happear with the point-to-point, but his path was made a local Section last season and was profered in the teach and vaueling better than Bramblethill Buck when he fall. He made in the bearing the start of the second control of the second last, and can show how unusly he was here first time. Roy-left the that of the second last, and can show how unusly he was here first time. Roy-left the that of the second last, and can show how unusly he was here first time. Roy-left that the second control of the second last, and can show how unusly he was here first time. Roy-left that the second control of the second last, and can show how unusly he was here first time. Roy-left that the second control of the second last, and can show how unusly he was here first time. Roy-left that the second control of the second last, and can show how unusly he was here first time. Roy-left that the second control of the second last that the second last the

30 DEECO	The second of Figure 1	
1 1125 Om	WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) 2m 6f Penalty Value £5,810 2m 6f Penalty Value £5,810	es non added
	PURAD HERDLE (ULASS V)	204000
	HANDRON INCOME	
	1 WILLDAM 12-1-1-1 75 010	
112M	i ar panelty Value 20,010	n n-mark
1.1	WILLIAM HILL PURSUE £5,810 2m 6f Penalty Value £5,810 curron set (25) (G) Mrs Orssine Fernell C Mart 4 11 12 curron 8 MARCH (10) (G) Sci Williams () 5 Stempord 9 11 5	THE PERSON
	The state of the s	
	CONSTRUCTION SET (25) (C) (C) (C) (C) (SHOOTE () Showard () Showard () Showard ()	D Martin (D)
. 531.10	201 101 ACAUGOSI (20) (C) 150 MINUTAY 7 11 5	
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1 4 201	CENTRAL CARROLL TO SEE THE PARTY OF THE PART	"""D) BilloGasarol.
	GENERAL CRACK (10) (Paul I: BOTOS): N TINCON-Dakes 6 10 12 CLEVER REMARK (28): AFS IAN STREET NOW IN PRO 6 10 10 ELITE RES (10) (ASTA PLE RESTE CALL III PRO 6 10 10 ELITE RES (10) (ASTA PLE RESTE CALL III PRO 8 10 8 HOLD YOUR RANKS (12) (C) (EVENTA 7 10 7 LOCAL (10) (CO) (John August C) (Westman 7 10 7 LOCAL (10) (John August C) (Westman 7 10 7 LOCAL (10) (John August C) (Westman 7 10 7 LOCAL (10) (John August C) (Westman 7 10 7 LOCAL (10) (John August C) (Westman 7 10 7 LOCAL (10) (John August C) (Westman 7 10 7 LOCAL (10) (John August C) (Westman 7 10 7 LOCAL (10) (John August C) (
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E. C. 12.3	AND	
~ 53*2.	MOLD YOUR RANGE (23) (C) Bean Septem 7 10 7 100 HOUR RANGE (23) (C) Beat of C Western 7 10 7 100 HOUR RANGE (24) (A) HOURSTON N TIME 1 10 5. 100 HOUR RANGE (24) (A) HOURSTON N TIME 1 10 5. 100 HOUR RANGE (24) (A) HOURSTON N TIME 1 10 5. 100 HOUR RANGE (25) (A) (A) HOURSTON N TIME 1 10 5.	G Hoden (4)
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18 June 1 and 18 declared Sel 30, Apprecia 73 6b.

18 June 1 and 18 declared Report Cultivo Sel, 8-1 Eliza Reg. Hold Your Ranks, 18
18 June 18 Jun PORM GUIDE

There elected the authorities in performance from a lot of these now the ground has changed the description of the behind Great Manquess, justified to LANSDOWNE with the performant when less of the behind Great Manquess, justified to LANSDOWNE with the performance from the manufacture of the performance of the performance

ginning of the and. That was his first run since Airtime, where he was over the top, in early April and will have brought him on. Leddish and Landed Gentry are also at their best on soft ground. General Crack was not right lest season and returned to land a nice touch in the nouse hurdle over two and a half miles on that Chepstow.com, Leading four out, he was not hard pressed to keep Malwood Castle at bay and there is more than a fair chance he could be sheed of the handicapper.

Selection: LANSDOWNE.

2.30 H.E.A.T. HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £6,700 added 2m 110vds Penalty Value £4.586

+		Tithing Legislich Amore 50/1000
1		HIGH ALLTITUDE (239) (D) (F J Sansbury) M Heston-Ellis 7 12 0
2	312335-	NORTHERN SUDDLER (213) (D) (Richard J Eigns) R Hodges 8 12 0
3	F21312-	WHATPERS DELICHT (199) (D) IS P Tinchill G Charles-Jones 7 11 9
4	1255/36-	LITTLE TONA (1989) (D) (Mark O'Corror) J Yorg 10 11 9
5		DEAR DO (15) (D) (SF) (C J Edwards) N Henderson 8 10 8
6	42413-3	EVENING RAIN (17) (CD) (The Gardens Entertainments Ltd) R Hodges 9 10 7
7	23P4P-6	PRODENT PESCY (24) (C) (Mes.) McCommeck) R Frost 8 10 6
В	00390/1/-	WATERFORD CASTLE (687) (D) (Sybil Lady Joseph) K Brilley 8 10 2
		= 8 declared ~
-	TTM-0-0-4	Waterdard Cooks, 11 J Page Co. J. 1 Wildram Builds E.1 (Ed) Albitude & 1 North.

WHIPPERS DELIGHT, a game front-numer over hundles and a winner first time out lest tarm, made a successful, if shakey, transition to fishues halfway through the season. The fact that he comes to hand early should give him an advantage over some of these and there is likely to be improvement in him given the few races he has hed over fences. Northern Saddler is a game sort who loves this ground. Eve wins two seasons ago were followed by three more lest term, but he does seen vitherable first time out and he is certain to improve on what-ever he does here. At Lebester in March, Northern Saddler was coming to challenge Misser Oddy when he fell at the final fence. The outcome was in the balance, yet even had Northern Saddler been beasten, he would still have finished a long way ahead of Dear Do. the eventual 30-length numer-up. Dear Do is not a lot better in, but he will be fighting fit after two recent rurs, so there must be a chance he will come out better of the two lodey, leight ABBitsate was a decent hundler in the north who eventually made it over fences before breaking a blood vessel on his first outing. He changed hands for 28,000gs at the Doncaster May Sales and that could be money well sperie.

Selection: WHIPPERS DELISHT.

3.00 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m 1f Peneity Value £2,948 O ALLOW (LS) (Als M Libershyn) B Lienelyn 4 11 0.

OUP BURLINGTON SAM (LS) (D H Barons) D Borns 7 11 0.

S2221-SF CASPIAN BELLICA (S) (L) Hindrings S Ninger 7 11 0.

CHARLES DE LA VIE (2001) (Also Carol Horley Miss C Horler 6 11 0.

WASSIED MARTINI (E T Way) P Rodiced 4 11 0.

WASSIED MARTINI (E T Way) P Rodiced 4 11 0.

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ACCOMMENSED MARTINI (E T Way) P Rodiced 5 11 0.

ACCOMMENSED MARTINI (E T Way) P Rodiced 5 11 0.

FORM GUIDE Caspins Beiuga is certain to lead and, if MOUSE BRD is not fix enough for his first run in almost a year, he could very well maintain this position throughout. Mouse Bird, however, put in two good runs with Shore Un Peu last November and his one poor effort was over a longer trip at Sandown. Full Quiver, who missed his intended hunding debut in a Ultimater setter recently, has a good fourth in a 14-furling claiming handlage at Satisbury Selection: MOUSE BIRD. 3.30 CLAUDE WHITLEY MEMORIAL CUP (HANDICAP CHASE) (CLASS D) £7,500 addled 3m 2f 110yds Penalty Value £5,158 546-R33 SPECIAL ACCOUNT (13) (Tony Foreit) C Barnes 9 11 10.

SETTING: 2-1 Kempe, 9-4 Bond Jur, 9-2 Basinionia BB, 5-1 Nazzaro, 14-1 Alia Georgia, 20-1 Spe

cial Account, Sessembeaudo 1994: Cesse Panes 8 10 11 T Jenis 11-4 (N A Tweston-Davies) 8mm Six-year-old Bond for comes from a stable light at present and it looks a strewd move puting this smart point-to-pointer straight into a handicap. After is couple of tells Bond for improved rapidly to complete his hat-rick with a decisive win from a good field in the Lady Dudley Cup, the point-to-point Derby. While his is a hot prospect, this looks like turning his a slogging match and the selection is NEANO, who has sineady proved himself in the continuors by outstaying Bond Air's stablemate Martial Boy over the course and distance 13 days ago, when he had Special Account a distance tack in third. Being 11th worse in with the third makes it a bit more difficult for Keeno, but the ground will be even more testing today and he loves that.

A OO BOUNDERIES INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH (CLASS H) £2,000

4	<u>vv</u>	added 2m 1f Penalty Value £1,605	
		BALLYEDWARD (Nick Elson) R Buckler 5 11 4	B Powel
;		CALLE KIN (Ferrorus Racard) Mess H Krasti 4 11 4	G F Rees (B
		GRANHAM PRIDE (I M S Racora K Baley 5 11 4	R Decembed
	6	JAC DEL PRINCE (13) (Desen Millowell) P Notholis \$ 11 4	AP NeCo
į	ă	MANUER (18) Endeth Bachmann Partnersha) N Tweaton Davies 5 11.4	H. Keighley (7
	-	on energy IT I Proved May 21 Portett 5 11 A	1 Harve
:		POUNDING SURF (B R Edgeley) Mrs J Rentre-Barons 6 11 4	,R Groes
		CHRISTING (Like: Card Harier) Mess C Harier 5 11 4	مئون و <u>.</u>
	243-	CONTROL COLON MARK & REMED N THESTER-DESIGN 5 11 4	14 Plane
ם	NE	CONTRIBUTE (1998) TAIN Gentrate M. Foster) Anatony Foster 5 11 4	5 MicHell
1	Ā	CORRES BOOMT #130 Auto, IR Raistress R From 4 11 4	
2	•	HALLING ROBBIN (174) (Carleton Winds) A Jernes 6 11 4	W Macains
3	п	CHESTER'S (1907 1949 1405200) Papelmei M Prof 8 10 13	مفيد والخارا الأسب
4	A	MANAGERS MET ODAY (13) /B R Kingl K Bishoo 4 10 13	
5	0	LEDOM LARK (13) () I Westerl R Baker 6 10 13	و جمورا گــــــ
-	-	- 15 decimed -	

BETTENC: \$-2 Scotby, 4-1 Matter, 5-1 Granteso Price, 6-1 Caulida, 10-1 Jac Del Prices, 14-1 Kasglas Metody, 18-1 others 1994: Be Strand 5 11 C R Dunwoody 8-1 (M Pipe) 165th

Mahler steped well when fourth behind Riverdale Boy in a bumper at Bangor 18 days ago. Mahier straped well when fourth behind Riverdale Boy in a bumper at Bargor 18 days ago. That compares favourably with his more expenenced stablemate Scotby's form lest season. Another that put in a good first show was KONGES MELODY, fourth to Castle Sweep, just over four lengths in front of Jac Del Prince, at the last meeting. She made quick headway to put nersall right in the picture coming out of the back arraige and was only just found out for pace on the run to the lime in when seemed a good case. Grantiano Pride is a full-broth-er to a NH Flat winner and worth noting in the betting.

Selection: YONGES MELODY.

LINGFIELD

HYPERION 12.20 Beliateena 12.50 Milton 1.20 Tart 1.50 Big Bands Are Back 2.20 Itsinthepost 2.50 Sea Victor 3.20 Double Rush 3.50 Hatta Breeze

GUING: Stangard.

STALLS: Im outside; remainder inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 7f.

Equitrack surface, left-hand, sharp unduluting course.

Rerecourse is south-east of town on B2028 Edembridge road.
Lingfield military stanon (served by London Victoria) adjoins course.

ADMISSION: Hembers 512, Tattersalls 58; Silver Ring 54, CAR.

SIS

BUNNERED FIRST TIME: Studio Thirty, Rentsyrus Way (12,20), Mystery Matthias, Stuaning Prospect (120). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Mol Canara (220), WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Mol Canard (2.20) all Jarnab (2.50), Duke Valencino (3.50), Port Knox (3.20) all won at Lingfield on Wednesday LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Pash (12.20) has been sent 270 miles by C Parthurst from Middleham, N Yorkshire; Tisque Of Lless (12.50), Shirley Sue (1.20), Itajathepost (2.20), Yougo (2.50) and Live Project (3.50) have been sent 270 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, N Yorkshire.

12.20 MIDDLEHAM LTD STAKES (CLASS F)
(DIV I) £3,150 added 1m 2f 405050 DOODIES POOL (IRES) (28) (C) P Burgoyne 5 9 2 ...M Wild 000000 GREEN GOLIGHTLY (USA) (6) D Wison 492.... A Wiso 00-0000 KENTAYRUS WAY (IRE) (6) (CD) A Moore 492....

– 14 decierad – BETTING: 3-1 Sellsteens, 9-2 Total Rack, 5-1 Doodles Pool, Spittire Briege, 7-1 Lees Pieses, 8-1 Festial Gold, 14-1 others 12.50 NEWMARKET MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,550 added 2YO 1m

- > secured -BETTRIG: 3-1 Catch The Lights, 7-2 Bottom Belle, 4-1 Gold Nicker, Mil-ton, 9-2 These of Lies, 8-1 Extremely Friendly, 15-1 others 1.20 NEWMARKET MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV II) £4,550 added 240 1m

- 8 declared -SEITHM: 5-4 Text, 5-4 Tisters, 9-2 Presenting Ed, 8-1 Shirley Size, 14-1 Mystery Matthies, 16-1 Charlie Chang, 25-1 others

1.50 EPSOM MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,250 added 3yo 7f

Gifford and Johnson bank on the rain Connoisseurs of racing will be we need lots of rain. She's well hoping the heavens open this and has done plenty of work."

week so that two of last season's

most impressive chasers. Morceli and Brief Gale, will get the for his gelding. Td like him to ground they want to contest the run if it rains as he's been ready First National Bank Gold Cup to go for three weeks, but I won't at Ascot on Saturday. Josh Gifford, the trainer of the day," he said. If the grey does top-weight, Brief Gale, said yes-make the journey to post, Adriterday: "She'll run if it rains, but an Maguire is booked to ride.

Howard Johnson, who handles Morceli, is also praying for rain make a final decision until Thurs-

Sound Man, who was narrowly beaten in the Arkle Chasc at the Festival, is the Irish hope for the race and although his trainer, Edward O'Grady, is slightly less concerned with the ground, he will still take the precaution of travelling to Ascot on Friday to walk the course before confirming his horse as a definite participant.

RACING RESULTS LEICESTER

1.00: 1. IA MENORQUINA, IJ A McCarthyl 9-1: 2. Rived Bid 10-1: 3. Delgarth Lady 14-1. 13 rsn. 4-5 (av Bellino. 2. 1½. (D. Marks, Lambourn). Tote: £7.90; £1.60, £3.80, £3.10. DF: £121.00. CSF: £88.25. Two: £88.30.

130: 1 SOUL TRADER (G Hogan) 6-1; 2. Cavina Evens tav; 3. Sati By The Stans 9-2, 6 ran, M, 24-. (N Babbage, Chetrenham). Totas: £11.90; £3.70, £1.10. DF: £9.20. CSF: £16.36.

2.00; 1. GREENWAY LADY U Ryeni 20-1; 2. High Flown 4-1 fax: 3. Jobber's Fid-dle 12-1. 17 ran. 1/4, 4. (C. Alica Newmarkett. Tote: £25.90; £4.30, £1.80, 18.70. PF. L212.10. CSF: 197.58. Tho: not wan (pool carned forward of £312.27 to Newton Abbot raday). There was no bid for the historical formation and the first formation.

2.30: 1. MMMY O'DEA (I Raiton) 13-8: 2. Change The Reign 8-11 tav, 3. Carling-ford Belle 7-1. 3 ran. 174, 30. (7 Bill, Ash-byte-la-Zourn). Toles: £2.50. DF: £1.50. CSP. £3.03.

3.00; 1. PEATSWOOD (A Thorriton) 7-2; 2. No Light 3-1; 3. Shirley's Train 7-4 fav. 5 ran. 4, 3. (M Chanton, Upper Lambourn), 7 otas: £6,50; £2.70, £1,70, DP: £6,50, CSF: £12.99.

3.30: 1. NAHRI (T Beyl 9-4 tax; 2. New - 2.1-2 hor Felich 15-2. 7 ran. 7, 5. () L.n 3-1: 3. hy Edith 15-2. 7 ran. 7, 5. () Mackle, Church Broughton, Tota: £3.10: £2.10, £2.70, DF: £5.30, CSF: £9.41. 4.00: 1. BRAES OF MAR (M A Fitzgerald) 6-4 fav; 2. The Black Monk 7-2; 3. Some By 100-30. 6 ran. 7. 5. (N Henderson, Lam-bourn). Tota: £2.60; £1.60, £2.10. DF: £5.70. CSF: £7.09. Quadpot: £24.20. Placepot: £424.50. Place 6: £260.74. Place 5: £51.61.

PLUMPTON

1.10: 1. OMEDJOY (C Rae) 13-8 fav; 2. Credit Controller 16-1; 3. Commanchero 9-4. 5 ran. 21/2, dist. U Jenkins, Royston. There was no hid for the winner. 1.40: 1. LUCKY AGAIN T Descente) 9-2: 2. Victory Anthem 9-2: 3. Paper Star ans fav. 4 nan. 20, 2. (C Popham, Taunton), Tota: £5.40. DF: £11.40. CSF: £18.45. Only three finished: revised penalty value £3,800.

2.10: 1. WALKING TALL (A P McCoy) 4-1; 2. Cool Spot 9-2; 3. Fresh Choice 7-4 fav. 8 ran. 10, 15. // McGovern, Haywards Health, Toter: £5.20; £1.50, £1.50, £1.30 DF: £11.70. CSF-£21.17. 2.40: 1. CYRILL HENRY IC Maude: 9-4 a faz: 2. Ortring Force 6-1: 3. Handsome Ned 7-2. 6 ran. 9-4 p faz Dawn Chance (4th). 4. 14. (Simon Earle, Sturminster Newton).

NAP: Magslad (3.40, Wetherby) NB: Catch The Lights (12.50, Lingfield)

Tota: £3.60; £1.80, £2.10, DF: £13.40, CSF: £14.11. 3.10: 1 TRICKSOME UF Titley; 15-8; 2. Master Hunter Evens fav. 3 ran. Det. (Miss H Kright, Wantige). Tote: £2.40. OF: £2.10. CSF. £3.69. MR: Cuerns Contraction. Only two finished; revised penalty value £2,709. 3.40: 1. Tight Fist U F Tidey 5-4 fav, 2. Royal Thimble 9-4; 3. Script 6-1. 8 ran. 8, ½. (Macs H Knight, Wartage), Total £2.50; £1.10, £1.50, £1.20. DF: £5.00. CSF: £4.85.

Quadrot: £19,40, Placepot: £361.70. Place 6: £135.42, Place 5: £57,49. WOLVERHAMPTON

1.50: 1. LA PETITE FUSEE (R Hughes) 1-2 lav. 2. Bogart 20-1; 3. Sand Star 20-1. 12 ran. 4, % IR O'Suñnan, Tobe: £1.20; £1.10, £6.90, £3.30, DF: £16.20, CSF: £14.24, Tro: £119.00. 2.20: 1. CASHMERE LADY (R Lappin) 5-2 tay, 2. Datmistar 25-1; 3. Diemond Market 14-1, 13 ran, 4, 2+2, (/ Eyre), Tota; 52.50; £1.20, £3.30, £2.80, DF; £33.00, CSF; £49.26, Tre; £118.20,

2.50: 1. WORLDWIDE ELSIE (A Mackey) 6-4 (av. 2. Polar Sphrit 13-8: 3. Homeland 11-2. 6 ran. 12, 6. (R Hams). Tota: £2.30; £1.80. £1.10. DF: £1.80. CSF: £3.91. 3.20: 1. CHAIRMANS CHOICE (/ Tars) 10-1: 2. Ocean Park, 13:-2: 3. Sudden Spin 7-2 ts. 12 ran. 34, 7. (4. Barks). Tode: £14.90: £3.70. £2.50. £2.40. DF: £32.10. CSF: £51.75. Incast: £221.42. Tho: £37.20. NR: Sweet Allegance.

veet Allegance. 3.50: 1. Frances Mary U Tate: 7-2 it tay: 2. Tricidestown 14-1: 3. Effective 33-1, 13 ren. 7-2 if tay lakapuna. 2½, ½, ½, (CFairhurs). Tote: 2-90: 52-20, £4-62. Tho: 2-90: £47-62. Tho: 2-90: £47-62. Tho: 2-90: £47-62. £248.80 (part won; pool of £245.31 carned forward to Newton Abbot 2.00 today). 4.20: 1. OPERA BUFF (A Whetan) 3.1 co fev; 2. Heighth of Feene 20.1; 3. His Ferm Bencer 15-1: 12 rain. 3-1 co fav Instantanceus. 16. http://doi.org/10.1000/10.1000/10.1000/10.1000/10.1000/10.1000/10.1000/1

4.50: 1. CERTAIN WAY (1 lues) 12-1; 2. ligsaw Boy 9-2; 3. Excitusive Associaty 5-1. 12 ran. 1.1-4 (av. bistam Process, NA, 2. (N Littmoden). Total: £13.50; £3.20, £1.50. £3.10. DF: £52.80. CSF: £83.73. Tno; £81.40. 5.20: 1, BENJAMENS LAW (R Lappru 16-1; 2, Rood Music 13-8 fav, 3, Calder Ring 8-1, 13 ran. Hd, 12, U Pickerng), Tote: 511.20: £2.40, £1.60, £2.40, DF, £12.60, CSF: £40.40, Tricss: £216.37, Tric: £138.60.

ed

Jackpot: £5,911.40. Quadpot: £48.30 (per were pool of £39.24 carried forward to Newton Abbot today). Place pot: £49.00. Place 6: £38.48. Place 6: £26.26. *THE INDEPENDENT **Horse Racing**

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> Commentary 0839 - 111 175



McGrath the evergreen Irish artisan



Phil Shaw meets the man who is set to become his country's most capped player in tomorrow night's decisive European Championship qualifying match in Lisbon

As the Republic of Ireland squad prepare for tomorrow's crucial En-ropean Championship qualifier in Portugal, the odds are that Paul Mc-Grath will be fast asleep or guzzling from a bottle.

The Paul McGrath in question is, it must be said, barely three months old. His father, the Paul McGrath, will be present and correct in Lisbon's Stadium of Light for a game which is set to decide whether the Irish reach next summer's finals, as well as Jack Charlton's future as

What is more, the Aston Villa centre-back - arguably the finest defender of his generation - will be playing his 79th international match, making him the most capped footballer in the Republic's history. Not bad for someone whose knees are perpetually reputed to be on their last legs, and whose periodic excesses have seen him cast as a sporting equivalent of Brendan Behan or Shane MacGowan.

To meet McGrath is to challenge your preconceptions. Not least about the notorious knees, which he insists are "grand". He does not pretend to be a candidate for the Temperance XI, yet it is hard to imagine anyone less like the self-destructive problem child Alex Ferguson felt compelled to sell for

McGrath, who will be 36 next month, always exudes a massive presence and confidence on the pitch. Off it, he is almost painfully self-effacing and gently genial. Once he relaxes, without a drink in sight, he is also humorous and dis-

ermingly frank. For instance he is prepared to say, without a trace of conceit, that he ought to have won even more caps. There were a lot of rough edges when I first went to Manchester United ffrom St Patrick's Athletic in 1982]. But I was established in the team well before I got the call. I think I should've been pushed forward earlier."

In the event it was 1985, with St Jack's era still a year away and Eoin Hand at the helm, before he received his chance as substitute for Mark Lawrenson against Italy in front of what seemed like "a million people" at Dalymount Park. The world champions won 2-1, but the newcomer started against Eng-

Hand was aiready using players the Ealing-born, Dublin-bred careth among them—who qualied by virtue of a recent high. McGrath among them - who qualified by virtue of a parent's birth-place. Charlton took the process to its logical conclusion. "Jack went looking for players," McGrath ad-mits, "though none of the lads with us now just wanted a country to play for. They're Irish through and

He recalls that Charlton's first training session, conducted in a cramped hall, "raised a few eyebrows". Likewise his decision to make McGrath captain. "I looked around me and Liam Brady and Frank Stapleton were there, Kevin Moran too. I was in shock because I'm the quietest of lads. I'm not a

begged them to co-

operate! I told

want to do it. but Jack said. Just but it's all part take the ball out and I did it for five of growing up.

By the time they l've done mine went to West Germany for the European Championship finals of 1988, the Republic had descended a control of the control of th developed a system which maximised their relatively think I've learned from my mistakes. slender resources. McGrath's role

was as midfield anchor. The group stage pitted them against England whose Old Trafford contingent ribbed him mercilessly about the All the sweeter, then, when Ray Houghton put the Irish ahead early on. Soon afterwards, McGrath

jarred his knee while "foolishly try-

ing a shot". By half-time it had stiffened up completely.
"I was in a bad way and shouldn't have gone out. I've got the game on video and in the second half I was just chasing shadows. The lads were carrying me, which is why Eng-

land came into it so strongly and probably should've won." The Republic held on, and the party at the team's Stuttgart hotel went on until the small hours.
Players supped freely with fans:
something few other international

sides, if any, would countenance.

The 1990 World Cup in Italy saw the Irish master the art of winning through without winning matches. McGrath, now under Graham Tavlor's wing at Villa and still operating in midfield, had an outstanding tournament. Characteristically, he cites an incident in which he was an

onlooker as the one he treasures. We had to win a shoot-out with Romania in Genoa to reach the quarter-finals. David O'Leary, who'd come on as sub, was running round organising everyone for the penalties. I didn't take one - I was hiding because I didn't have the bottie. Needless to say, Dave scored the

shouter on the pitch.

"Now Liam is the best player I've played with for Ireland, by far. So I went to him and the others and went AWOL between lians 190 and USA '94. It was a

measure of his enthem I didn't real- 'l've been foolish during excellence that Charlton, describing him as "a special case... the best player in Britain", kept faith with him. "I've been foolish, but it's all part

of growing up. Tvc lic, which is the hard part, but I

Jack accepted me back, and I hope I've repaid him on the pitch."

Installments are made with a conassauments are noted with a con-sistency that belies his age and im-age. After the Irish stunned Italy in New York, Charlton called him "in-mense". But nothing, McGrath maintains, could have prepared them for the sauna heat encoun-

ball. The Mexicans ran round doing one-twos, laughing at us while we were melting.

We thought we could bounce back, but we never got over it. We just didn't perform against Holland.

tered at Orlando against Mexico. "It

was a ridiculous day to play foot-

We felt we'd let people down, which was a bad way to go." Epic as the clashes with England and Italy were, the match that stands out for McGrath among the 78 to date was fought out in less

glamorous surroundings. Needing to avoid defeat by Northern Ireland

in Belfast to book their passage to America, the Republic hit back to

"It's one I'd never want to play again because of the tension of the night. But the feeling when we got back to Dublin was fantastic. The whole city seemed to be out cele-

whole crystalians brating."
With one possible exception. To Eamon Dunphy, the tabloids' "joily green giant" was only a "smalltown hero" whose teams were actually under-achieving. Stapleton and Mick McCarthy used to leave the grown when he entered. Mcthe room when he entered. Me-Grath, revealing an independent streak, balances fierce loyalty to Charlton with the view that Dunphy is "good for Irish football".

"It's no use everybody patting you

on the back all the time, yes-men telling you you're great. The odd comment upsets you, but that spurs you on to prove them wrong.

On the subject of motivation. Charlion warned after last month's narrow win over Latvia that he would resign if they failed to make would resign it they tailed to make it to England. "None of the lads want to see Jack go after all he's done for us," McGrath says, "And a few of us might be on our way if we go out, so there's every incen-tive"

This is not a veiled threat, rather an acceptance of the possibility that a new manager would dispense with the old guard. Nevertheless. McGrath loves representing his country and feels he is playing as well as ever. "I've no plans to retire yet. I'll be a long time not playing football, so whoever's in charge I want to go on as long as possi-

Taking the caps record off Pack-ie Bonner would not, he concedes, be much consolation if results went against them. But the Irish, for whom victory would guarantee qualification, can still beat anyone on their day, according to McGrath. They certainly got the better of Por-tugal at Lansdowne Road.

After that 1-0 success, a member of the visiting entourage sought out the Republic's No 5 to ask for his shirt. Honoured though the wearer was to oblige the great Eusebio. he is unlikely to relinquish it so readily in Lisbon. It will, after all. be something to show the other Paul McGrath when dribbling begins to

Unexpected glint of gold for 49ers

American football

A season in which the form book has been of about as much relevance as the good book set new standards in its unpredictability on Sunday when the San Francisco 49ers confounded the pundits, the public and, most importantly, the Dallas Cowboys with an astonishing perfor-

mance in Texas Stadium. The meeting of the two best teams of the 1990s had long been regarded as the crucial encounter of the regular season, but the 49ers contrived to undermine its status in recent weeks by repeatedly prostrating themselves before the sport's also-rans. When the news came last week that their quarterback, Steve Young, had not recovered from his shoulder injury. it was difficult to see how the Super Bowl

champions could avoid a beating. Beating there was, but it was the Cowboys who sustained it, thrashed 38-20 in front of their own fans. "I'll put it straight," Deion Sanders, the Cowboy who was a 49er, said. "They kicked our butts, and they proved they don't have to have

Steve Young to beat us." The 49ers snatched the initiative immediately. Rice scoring

Blyth Spartans have seen it all be-

fore in the FA Cup, most notably in 1978 when they were a minute

away from becoming the first non-

League team to reach the quarter-

finals only for Wretham to equalise

from a twice-retaken comer. The

replay drew 41,000 to St James'

Park, borrowed for the night, but

The run was the making of sev-

eral players, among them Alam

Shoulder, a 25-year-old miner from

the Durham village of Leasingthome.

League scouts began tracking the

season, after scoring twice in a

5-3 first-round defeat against York,

Newcastle offered him a contract.

der said. "I was a deputy and on

good money. But I took the chance.

Fortunately, the pit manager was

a Newcastle fan because I should

have worked three months' notice."

The gamble paid off, launching a

goals for Newcastle, Carlisle and

career that brought more than 100 football physic.

"It was a bit of a gamble," Shoul-

the Third Division side won 2-1.

on an SI-yard pass play and Merton Hanks returning a fumble to establish a 14-0 lead after 84 seconds. With uncanny echoes of the NFC Championship game in January, the Cowboys continued to self-destruct and by early in the

Troy Aikman out of the game. Emmitt Smith, meanwhile, was being thwarted by a Herculean effort from the 49ers defense. As a result the Cowboys' entire attacking gameplan was disrupted and even the touchdown they did muster in the second quarter - from Smith owed much to a fortunate pass interference call.

The 49ers retaliated with their own scoring drive as the half closed and, with a 31-7 lead at the interval, the contest was all over har the clouting. This there was plenty of during a turbulent second half but by being restricted to field goals in the third quarter the improved effort of the Cowboys was never transformed

into a sustained comeback. A famous victory should re-ignite the 49ers' season. After a turbulent month they look capable again of returning to the NFC Championship game. Should it be back in Dallas (as still looks likely) they will approach it with considerable confidence.

Hartiepool before a head injury

Despite the handicap of double

der today runs a poultry farm from

his nine-acre smallholding, manages

Crock Town in the Northern League

and turns out for the Masons Arms

hood sweetheart, Marie, a school-

teacher, he still lives in Leasingthorne.

His daughter, Louise, at 15 the old-

Jon Culley

Married since 1977 to his child-

over-40s team at Spennymoor.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

5ft 5in forward and the following vision, the legacy of the injury, Shoul-

THE TAYLOR MONTHS: The weight of fans' expectations and a welter of injuries proved too much

Taylor falls through credibility gap

The seeds of Graham Taylor's demise at Molineux were sown two years ago last month on an apocalyptic night in the Feyenoord stadium at Rotterdam.

Taylor's credibility and - it second quarter the lead had seemed to those who observed been stretched to 24-0, with him closely during his 20-month reign as manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers - his confidence were damaged irreparably when the Netherlands shattered England's hopes of qualifying for the 1994 World Cup finals.

Already dubbed "The Turnip" by one newspaper, Taylor's image was further tarnished by the screening of a Channel 4 documentary featuring his tragi-comic touchline antics as the Dutch sealed his fate. Phrases like "Do I not like that" entered popular usage.

The sight of a nerdish Taylor puppet spouting a stream of semi-consciousness on Spitting Image compounded the impression of Taylor, a personable, urbane individual, as a figure of fun.

Before that infamous Cutting Edge programme - in which Taylor also swore profusely -Wolves' owner, Sir Jack Hayward, had been sitting in his retreat in the Bahamas pondering whether to offer him the job in succession to Graham Turner.

Informed of Taylor's behaviour by his son Jonathan, the chairman, Sir Jack cooled his interest (under pressure from his wife and butcher, he later admitted). There was a brief flirtation with Bryan Robson, but he was an unknown quantity, and expensive too. The Haywards began to reconsider Taylor's plus points.

Not only was he vastly experienced, having been in management since December 1972. but he had proved with both Watford and Aston Villa his ability to win promotion to and establish a side in what is now

the Premiership.

1965 At 21, becames youngest person to quality for 10 FA coacting badge. 1968-72 Makes 150 appearances for Lincoln. 1972 Paying career ended by the many at age 28.

a Sun headline over a story quoting supporters' club officials who resented the fact that Taylor had dropped Steve Bull early in his England reign. Ironically, one of Taylor's fi-

nal acts was to drop the Molineux cult hero for the first time in his Wolves career. But after the board had bitten the bullet, late in March last year, he was Yet Wolves' fans, even then, at pains to stress that Bull was had their doubts: "Keep the central to his plans. In the Turnip off our patch" screamed evening a Wolves team without

The Graham Taylor story

by telling change of Singard yours. Under 20 and 8 seems. Past game in change of records seem sees Singard place if the moley.

1992 England grout at the 1992 of Surcoson Channell State Singard grout at the 1992 of Surcoson Channell State Singard grout at the 1992 of Surcoson Channell State Singard State State Singard State Singard State State Singard State 1992 England go rout at ties sogge of turnosen Chem-promising hines thousing galadess chears with Der-mark and France and a 2-1 defect by Switchen, Taylor substituting braider in his final international, 1993 2-0 defect by the Nemeriands folls Eng-land's hopes of qualitying for 1994 World Cup-land's hopes of qualitying for 1994 World Cup-fingle, England beat San Manno 7-1 on final qual-flying be but Taylor's riegn as manager ends when he reagers with a record of 15 wins, sever de-fects and 13 draws in 38 internacionals. 1994 Apportued manager of First Derson Wolwes 1995 Wolwes miss Que on composition on Frent-inship when they are beaten by Botton in Okarparan where they are began by Bolton in play-differentials. Taylor reages shart a disapporting shart to 1.995/96 sessori as Wohers share to 1.880° in table with just four was in 16 games.

their injured talisman won at Bolton, and followed up by heating Tranmere in Taylor's first game in complete charge. Results tailed off and they

failed to reach the play-offs, but after a substantial expenditure on players hopes were high that Wolves would shortly enjoy the status their magnificently refurbished stadium merited.

They started well enough, and at this stage last year led the

Charlton sets

cause of a hamstring injury.
The Rangers midfielder, Stu-

art McCall (rib injury), is the only player doubtful for Scotland's last Group Eight quali-fier against San Marino at Hampden Park tomorrow.

has a chest virus.

A devastating succession of injuries - Wolves had a complete team's worth of players under the surgeon's knife last season - undoubtedly undermined their challenge. But when things went wrong, it was also noticeable that Taylor was quick to go on the defensive, revealing a negative side to his character that had not been evident prior to the fiasco of his final months with England.

The crowd never warmed to him, regarding themselves, pointedly, as "Jack Hayward's Barmy Army Although Wolves finished fourth - their best position in a decade their failure in the play-offs suggested that expectations for the current campaign might be

artificially high. The signing of Bradford City's Dean Richards for a club-record £1.85m, followed by the £1m purchase of Mark Atkins from Blackburn, nudged Taylor's outlay towards the £8m mark. Wolves, however, peaked



in 12th place and were down at 18th following Sunday's goalless draw at home to Charlton, in which they appeared sorely lacking in motivation.

Afterwards, as hundreds chanted for his sacking. Taylor said it would be dishonourable to walk away from a job he had heen given by people with "integrity", a quality he described as rare in football. Sir Jack had repeatedly expressed his conviction that Taylor was the man to lead Wolves back to the promised land, and it seemed the matter would rest there. Someone, clearly, changed his mind yesterday.

Fowler firmly bent on redress

Robbie Fowler plans to exorcise the worst memory of his short, but stunningly successful career by transferring his prodigious goalscoring record for Liverpool to the international stage. The Liverpool marksman

spearheads the England attack

in their final and decisive Eu-

ropean Under-21 Championship qualifier against Austria at Middleshrough's Riverside Stadium tonight. It was in the corresponding fixture in Austria last year that Fowler was sent off after seeing his Anfield team-mate, Jamie

Redknapp, inspire the team to victory with a superb hat-trick. "Everything was going real-ly well," Fowler said. "We were 3-1 up, then I went and got myself sent off. It's not my happiest memory in football.

"My sending off took all the headlines away from Jamie. I thought the dismissal was totally out of order but had to accept it. I ended up missing the next four games, which was very disappointing. I hope I can make up for what happened

public of Ireland gain at least a

with a goal against them." England need to beat Austria. then they must hope the Re-

Group Six leaders. That would allow Dave Sexton's team, who collected one point from a possible six against the Portuguese, to claim the solitary qualifying In addition to the returning place. "Robbie owes us a goal," Sexton said. "He has not scored many for us. But he is like Jimmy Greaves. He has that same low centre of gravity and is a similar type of finisher, though he will be a lot stronger physi-

game. We have got to win and hope that the Republic can get a result in Portugal." Fowler also knows international goals will be vital as he attempts to make the full senior squad in time for next year's European Championship. He said: "I've scored twice in seven games for the Under-21s

cally. This is our most important

and, though some people would be happy with that, I'm not. I want to score in every game. "Jamie and Steve McManaman have both made the stepup from the Under-21s and it's my aim to follow them."

Sexton's build-up has been affected by the withdrawals through injury of the captain and regular keeper, Paul Getrard, of Oldham (knee), Nor-wich's Darren Eadie and Dean draw against Portugal, the Gordon of Crystal Palace (both

● ●

thigh). David Unsworth, of Everton, has been given the captaincy while Newcastle's Robbie Elliott is drafted in.

Fowler, the Aston Villa goal-keeper Michael Oakes, Manchester United's Nicky Butt and Chris Bart-Williams, of Nottingham Forest, are the other changes to the side which drew a friendly in Norway last month. Scotland's Under-21 side continue their attempt to qualify for the last eight of the European Championship against San Marino at Firhill tonight, seeking a

seventh successive group win. If Finland fail to collect three points in Russia, the Scots will qualify for the quarter-finals regardless of the result in Glasgow. Dundee United's Christian Dailly extends his record of Under-21 caps to 30, while Dailly's Tannadice team-mate, Steven Pressley, will captain the side.

The Southampton reserve, Paul Sheerin, is given a debut at this level in midfield. The two strikers will be Jim Hamilton, of Dundee, and Andy Liddell, of Barnsley, Celtic's Simon Donnelly and Neil McCann, of Dundee, will be on the wings.

Under-21 teams. Sporting Digest, page 27

record straight

Jack Charlton will not immediately resign as manager of the Republic of Ireland if they are eliminated from the European Championships against Portugal in Lisbon tomorow

"No matter what happens here I'm going to sit down and think about it," the 60-year-old Charlton said yesterday. "I never said I was definitely leaving. I said I would consider it. And it certainly won't be the press that drives me out, it will be the people of Ireland. The people will let me know when it's time

Charlton has injury doubts over his captain Andy Townsend (foot) and his Aston Villa teammate, Steve Staunton, who has not played for three weeks be-

Wales yesterday lost their captain, Barry Home, when he became the latest player to pull out of the trip to Albania. The 33-year-old Everton midfielder

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football (7.30 unless stated)

(7.30 uness sareo)
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSKIP
GROUP SIX
England v Austrie (8.0)
Indiand v Austrie (8.0)
Indiand v Austrie (8.0)
Portugal v Republic of Ireland (7.45)....
(81 Muricipal stadium, Leina) GROUP EIGHT Scotland v Sen Marino (at Firth stacken, Glase)

(Strim statum, Lassyw)
MITRE UNDER-21 CHALLENGE
Football Lasgue Vitalian Lasgue Serie B
(at Alfred McAlphe stadum, Huddersfield) AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD NORTHERN SECTION
GROUP FIVE FIRST ROUND
Bury v Wigan...
GM VALOGHALL CONFERENCE

ering v Weiling (7,45). REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: UnBond League v Football Association XI rat Accorng-ton Stanley FCI; Margenhead United v icis League XI. LEAGUE OF WALES League Cup first round Sangor City v Cernaes Bay: Newtown v Caersws.

round: Barrgor City v Cernees Bay: Newtown v Caeraws.

RCB LEAGUE Premier Division: Hitchin Touri v Chersey Town (7.45). Second Division: Hother town v Chersey Town (7.45). Second Division: Second Division: Robins v Carrey Stand v Witenhoe; Challont St Peter v Bendlesst Motor v Cherney Stand v Witenhoe; Challont St Peter v Bendlesst Middle v Challen v Carrey Stand v Hungerlord. Third Division: Clapton v Horn-church; East Thurnock v Flackwell Health; Legition v Camberley, Weaddstone v Southait; Windsor and Eton v Cone. Carlton Cup First recent: Barton Rowers v Heybordge Swiffs: Thame v Marlow.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Division: Beators Button Capter Rowers: Bastock v Chelmiston; Burton Aders v Heybordge Swiffs: (7.45); Cambridge City v Growsend and North-Sect; Gourester v Halesowen Town; Hastings v Sudbuy Town; Beston v Chelemiston; Berton Capter Rowers v Sudbuy Town; Buston Capter Rowers v Sudbuy Town; Buston Capter Rowers v Sudbuy Town; Hastings v Sudbuy Town; Buston V Chelmiston; Buston Capter Rowers v Sudbuy Town; Buston V Chelmiston; Sand V Sudbuy Town; Hastings; Redden't v Nursanam Ashford v Mangate (7.45); Town Sudbuy V Prole (7.45); Wernbush v Bastley (7.45); Winey v Hayard (7.45). Permouth v Bastley (7.45); Westley v Hayard (7.45). Permouth v Bas

UNBOND LEAGUE First Division: Congeron v Eastwood Town. WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Fourstiam v Chatham; Herne Bay v Carnerhury: Whistable v Sheppey.

WORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE President's Cup third round: Belper v Borrowash; Goole v Ossett Town: Hartied Mann v Yorksme Amateur; Maliby v Huckvall.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Woodbnoge v Newmarket.

MEREWARD IMPERIO COUNTIES

Woodbrotje v Newmarket.

MEREWARD UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE CLIP Second round: Spaining v holbrech: Stamford v Stewarts and Lloyds Corby.

PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Derby v Sheffield Wochsistey (7.0); Lentport v Rotts County (7.0); Lentport v Botton (7.0); for Southour PC. Second Division: Backgoop of mirety (7.0); Caverray v Burnley (7.0); Manchester City v Preson (6.5%; Rotherham v Port Vale (7.0). Third Division: Shewsbury v Chester (7.0). Third Division: Shewsbury v Chester (7.0).

ANON BISHRANCE COMSENATION First Division: Portsmouth v Queen's Park Rangers (7.0). Second Division: Plymouth v Torquay (7.0).

(2.0).

FA YOUTH CUP First round: Slough v Here-ford: Busiden v Chefsea (7.45). First-round replay: Wadded v Mycombe Waarderess: Einter Chy v Duwich Hamlet. Second round: Bold-mere St Michaels v Southend Utd.

Rugby League STUNES CENTENARY LEAGUE First Division Sational y Whitestaken (7.30).

Rugby Union

TOUR MATCHES: Conneught v Fil (3.0) (at Gal-way): North and Miklands v Western Samoa (7.30) (at McDiannid Park, Porth). LIS INSURANCE UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAM-PIONSHIP Midlands Poot Varanckshire v North McSands (7.30) (at Coveny). REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Devon v Som-erset (7.30) (at Eveler); WRU PressCent's Un-der-21 xV New Zasiland Under-21 (7.15) (at Portypaidd).

To to

F 1 (1)

Other sports



Welsh players and administrators seem to feel the deprivation caused by the loss of annual matches against English clubs

The League system has undoubtedly done a lot for English rugby. Whether it has done anything for the game in Wales is more questionable. The Courage League has matched clubs that were not on visiting terms, such as Harlequins and Wasps - and, incidentally, exposed the claims of some northern and Comish clubs that they were the subject of unfair discrimination by the selectors. The Heineken League, by contrast, has served mainly to demonstrate how thinly the available talent in Wales is spread.

There is something else. By this time in the season, in prc-League days, Cardiff, Llanelli and Swansea would have visited Twickenham or Old Deer Park to play Harlequins or London Welsh (for Twickenham

rather than the Stoop, was then the Quins' principal pre-Christmas such a contest seriously if it excludes Quins' principal pre-Christmas ground). In addition, the last two Welsh clubs, together with Neath, had fixtures with Richmond until Llanelli's annual visit was called off after the Raking-of-Ralston episode of 1978 (where, oddly enough, the guilty party was an Englishman

playing for the Welsh club).
Welsh players and administrators seem to feel the deprivation more keenly than do their English opposite numbers. There is now a recommendation from the Rugby Football Union that, out of a First Division of 10, the top four clubs should participate in a European tournament and the bottom six in an Anglo-Welsh competition. In my opinion, this is a pointless

Bath, Harlequins, Leicester and Wasps and, on the Weish side, Cardiff, Llanelli, Pontypridd and Swansea?

This, of course, is to assume that the Welsh fall in with the RFU. It seems they have not been consulted. The RFU appear to have come up with a succession of ideas out of the hat, for all the world as if they were a kind of rugby think-tank - or, come to that, a collection of columnists - rather than a responsible organisation with obligations towards players, supporters and equivalent bodies throughout the world.



week ago. That can wait. It is, rather, to point to the effects of the exclusion of Wales from England My object here, however, is not to analyse the whole of the report which was published just under a and England from Wales.

It is always as well for columnists overtaken by a compulsive, giggly silvocome clean. One effect is that I lyness—has nevertheless been more

am not as well-informed about Weish rugby as I was a decade ago. By this stage of the year I should have observed, playing for the printhe contenders for places in the national side. Instead, over the last three years, I have, as far as Welsh rugby is concerned, seen most of the internationals at Twickenham and watched Cardiff, together with Swansea's matches against Australia and South Africa. The rest of my recent knowledge I have derived

from Rugby Special.
Now this programme, whatever its deficiencies - the principal of which is that, since it was farmed out to m-

Welsh rugby. Indeed, the more cause I watched them uncur. For mydyed-in-the-wool English supporters might justifiably complain, in much the same spirit as I switch off (sometimes metaphorically, more often literally) when Hawick are play-

Instead of complaining, however, English supporters say to me: "As World Cup. Jack Rowell can do so your club rugby is so good, as we see the because he has past success to bolon Rugby Special week after week, ster him and the side. Bowring's first how is it that the national side are so bad?" The answer, so I am told by friends who watch Welsh rugby week after week, is that the clubs are just as bad as the national side. Television, through skilful cutting. makes them look better than they

The Welsh side on Saturday did

than fair in the share it allots to not look better than they were beself, I echo George Formby's song: "Things Might Have Been A Great Deal Worse."

My view is that it is folly for Kevin Bowring (who looks like being appointed coach on a long-term basis) to look ahead four years to the task is to restore self-confidence. This means playing the best players, not only leuan Evans, but Robert Jones and Jonathan Davies. I should put Davies in the centre. retain Justin Thomas at full-back and give Arwel Thomas, now of Bristol, formerly of Neath, a go at outside half.

Springboks make all the right noises

Rugby Union STEVE BALE

If Kobus Wiese throws a punch at an Englishman at Twickenham on Saturday like he did at a Welshman in September, it will very likely be the end of his Springbok career. It is a salutary warning for the 18st lock before South Africa conclude the year which climaxed by winning the World Cup in June.

But the South African management have such faith in their sence only nine days longer than man that when they arrived in that enforced on the unfortu-

they would not so much as contemplate the possibility. "I would put my reputation on the fact that we will live up to our code of conduct." Morné du Plessis, the

team manager, said last night.
"We feel sufficiently confident that he will not do it again - that's why he has been selected." After Wiese floored Derwyn Jones in the South Africa-Wales game in Johannesburg he was fined £9,000 and suspended for 30 days, an ab-

RFU in talking mood

Union has so many antagonists that it has a vested interest in believing it's good to talk and Tony Hallett, the Union's secretary, believes yesterday's talks with Sir John Hall have averted the threat of legal ac-

tion, writes Steve Bale, Now that his business interests control Newcastle RFC. Sir John has his own vested interest in removing the RFU's 120day qualification for transferred players. He is impatient to accommodate Rob Andrew, Dean Ryan, Steve Bates, Tony Underwood. Doddie Weir and Gary Armstrong in his side.

Hence the legal threat, which weight as long as their moratorium on professionalism exists. ie, the rest of the season. "He speaks in uncompromising terms about the future of rugby, but this is leavened by a wish to see only the best for the game.7 the emollient Hallett said after the meeting. However, he did add: The registration regulations for this season must remain, as

Newcastle would also prefer to avoid relegation from the Second Division, an eventuality increasingly contingent on whether the National Clubs' Association, of which they are a member, agrees that there should be none when the division is expanded from 10 to 14 clubs. So far, the NCA has been unable to reach an agreed decision.

David Sole, the former Scotland captain, is being carpeted by the Scottish Rugby Union for remarks about the referee that followed Melrose's win over Edinburgh Academicals on Saturday. A series of penalties awarded against Accies by Colthe RFU considers carries no in Henderson, a Borders referee, culminated in the winning try in injury-time.

"That was tantamount to cheating," Sole, these days the Accies coach, said after the match.

Initially, the Union is to write to him demanding an explanation, though yesterday Sole was unrepentant. "Having had time to reflect, I still feel we were

London from Italy yesterday nate Jones because he had been concussed.

"He was punished - and punished severely. He missed a hope that will be sufficient deterrent." Missing Transvaal games these days means losing out financially, and with some Springboks said to be on £140,000 for a year's Test rugby the disciplinary imperative s never been greater.

The Ellis Park incident was an unfortunate postscript to the World Cup, which for the Springboks reached its low point at the battle of Port Elizabeth gainst Canada. "In a moment of madness at Boet Erasmus we let ourselves down." Du Plessis said. "We regrouped and went through to the World Cup final without further incident but we possibly lost the emphasis again when we played Wales. We reminded ourselves of our commitment to discipline and we will work on it all the time."

By choice the South Africans are in a West End hotel with none of the neace and quiet touring teams usually crave. Immediately on arrival they took themselves off for a run in Hyde Park and this morning they are training at the Honourable Artillery Company Ground in the City of London when the team will be finalised from the 21 who are here. On Sunday the Springboks beat Italy 40-21 in Rome.

England's selection, meanwhile, has created some confusion among those charged with dictating South African tactics, because the absence of Dean Richards, Brian Moore and especially Rob Andrew makes the English attacking pattern far more difficult to predict. "If I must rate the England side now, I think they are more dangerous," François Pienaar,



Shane Warne celebrates taking the wicket of Salim Malik in Brisbane yesterday Photograph: Reuter

Warne completes the rout of Pakistan

Australia 463 Pakistan 97 and 240 Australia win by an innings and 126 runs ,

Shane Warne returned the best match analysis by an Australian bowler against Pakistan on home soil as Mark Taylor's men completed a resounding victory on the fourth day of the first Test in Brisbane yesterday.

Warne added four wickets to the seven he took in Pakistan's 77 and, inevitably, the Man of the Match award.

Resuming on 197 for 3 and still needing to score 169 to cricket authorities.
make Australia bat again, PakWarne said: "I reistan lost their last seven wickets for 43 runs in just under one hour. Inzamam-ul-Haq, who shows began the day on 56, added just game."

six before he lofted a ball from Mark Waugh to Craig McDermott at mid-off. That was the beginning of the end for Pakistan, with not one of their last six batsman able to reach double figures as Warne mopped up. the tail.

blow for justice after dismiss the former Pakistan captain, Salim Malik im Malik, for a duck. It was the pair's first confrontation at the wicket since the Australians accused the Pakistani of offerfirst innings to finish with 11 for ing bribes to throw matches in a 1994 tour of Pakistan - a charge strenously denied by Salim and rejected by Pakistan

> Warne said: "I really enjoyed taking his wicket for obvious reasons. I think the dismissal shows there is justice in the

Australia announced an unchanged side for the second Test, starting in Hobart on Friday. Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, said: "We made some mistakes in the game but we will definitely come back stronger Warne claimed he struck a and fitter in Hobart."

(Fourth day; Australia won toss)

AISTRALIA - First Inches 463 (5 R Waugh
112 no, M A Taylor 69, M E Waugh 59, G S
Blewett 57, D C Boon 54).

McGrath makes maiden century

Pakistan Cricket Board XI 301 and 67-4; England A 355

Anthony McGrath, the 20-yearold Yorkshire batsman, hit a maiden century against the Pakistan Cricket Board XI in La-

hore yesterday. Richard Stemp, his Yorkshire. team-mate, was his partner in a last-wicket stand of 64 after McGrath, in only his seventh. first-class game, had been on just 56 when the partnership began. McGrath, 26 overnight, had

reached 54 by hunch but when Dean Headley was bowled first ball to leave England A 291 for 9 he cut loose, driving Shoaib

pulling and cutting him for sev-eral other boundaries. With Stemp supporting stub-

bornly, McGrath worked his way steadily through the nineties and neither did he let a sore right knee bother him. despite the fact he was limping quite badly throughout the second half of his innings. He hit two sixes and 11 fours in a 301ball effort that spanned almost five-and-a-half hours.

McGrath said: "To get my maiden hundred in England colours is a fantastic feeling. My knee has been troubling me on and off for about a year-and-aand off for about a year-and-a-half and I will have a scan done when I get home. It's not really a big problem, though."

Age 1-4, 2-6, 3-40, 3-67.

The bet Westheldsh. Helder Inger, Shoalb Alter, Fahad Phan, lefterer, Makeshir Nazeer.

Bowling Headley 7-0-20-2; White 5-0-19-0: Sterey 7-3-12-1; Iran 2-1-5-0; Salstury 3-2-10-1.

Fatt: 1-4, 2-6, 3-40, 4-67

Bruno is encouraged by

confirmation of Tyson date

the RFU has already stated." cheated of victory." the captain, said. **Davis Cup goes to Newcastle**

Britain will open their 1990 Davis Cup campaign against Slovenia on an indoor court at the Castle Farm Tennis Centre. in Newcastle, from 3-5 May. It is the first time that the venue has been used for a Davis

Cup tie, though the Centre has staged an ATP Challenger tournament for the past three years. The tie, to be played on carpet, will be a first-round match in the Euro/African Zone

Group Two, which Britain, with Greg Rusedski and Tim Hen-

man in their squad, are expected to win next year.

To gain promotion to the Euro/African Zone Group One, Britain must beat Slovenia, then either Ghana or Malta away in July and probably Egypt at home in September. Steffi Graf claimed her eigth title of the year when she survived a strong challenge from the unseeded Lori McNeil to win the Advanta Championship final in

Philadelphia, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3. Graf, who won the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open, said: "It's the best year I've ever had, even better than

left, was claimed by Randy Smith whose stick touched it.

next day, at Busingstoke Bison.

The first period ended 2-1 to Bison but a straight hat-trick from

Kevin Conway in the second

It is autumn - so Tony Hand

saw Bison win 6-3.

Cardiff were found out the

in '88 when I won the Grand Slam. The competition is better now. There were difficult tournaments, difficult circum-

stances this year."
Thomas Muster and Michael Chang reprise their French Open final on the opening day of the ATP World Championships, which begin in Frankfurt today.

Other confrontations in today's round-robin group matches, featuring the world's top eight players, are the world No 1 Pete Sampras against Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Boris Becker against Wayne Ferreira.

Rugby league DAVE HADFIELD

The Leeds captain, Garry Schofield, will learn today whether he will face an inquiry over an alleged head-butt during the Regal Trophy secondround tie against Salford on Sunday.

The Rugby League's refer-eeing director, Greg McCallum, will study a video of the incident in the match at Headingley before deciding whether Schofield will face charges.

The Salford player-coach, Andy Gregory, who was incensed during and after the match over what he saw as an intentional attack on his hooker, Mark Lee, will talk to his directors before deciding whether to cite Schofield formally. o cite Schofield formally. lower-profile but highly-win-The Leeds football director, able tie against the Hunslet

Hugh McGahan, said: "We could question a number of things but we don't want to get involved in any tit-for-tat. We are very disappointed that Gregory has reacted in this way." Leeds are to feature in the oustanding tie of the third round. Their match at home to

Schofield awaits video re-run

their neighbours, the Bradford Bulls, continues the recent tradition of the two clubs meeting each other in cup competi-Either that or the London Broncos' home tie against Halifax is likely to be the televised

match on 25 November, with

the remainder of the ties played

the following day.

Carlisle, the giant-killers of the last round with their shock 19-18 victory over Castleford, have been rewarded with a

Hawks at the new South Leeds

St Helens have a tricky trip to Hull, while the holders, Wigan, go to the Alfred McAlpine Stadium to play Huddersfield. Rochdale Hornets, who travel to Dewsbury following their good win at Hull KR in the sec-

ond round, fear that their Australian full-back, Sean Alvarez, could have his career ended by what his coach. Steve Gibson. described as the worst broken ankle he had seen in his life. "He will be lucky if he ever plays again," Gibson said.

Wigan's England World Cup second-rower, Simon Haughton, is having an x-ray after injuring his ankle in the victory over Whitehaven, also on Sunday.

RESAL TROPHY Televi-rossed dinear Hundet v Califels Huddesdeld v Wight; Wordington v Widnes; Sedley v Warrington; London v Healter; Hulf v St Heldens; Ledde v Beedfort; Denabury v Rochdala (Ties to be played westend of 25-26 November).

Boxing

Frank Bruno's World Boxing Council heavyweight title fight against Mike Tyson was yesterday confirmed for 16 March at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Tyson is recovering from a cracked thumb, which brought about the postponement of his fight with Buster Mathis Jnr on 4 November, although he should be ready to face Math-

ond fight since being released from prison. for the fight today, said: "This is very encouraging because I think I am at my peak. I'm a stone and a half heavier than I was for my first fight against

Tyson, I'm very strong, very

confident. It was music to my

is in early January for his sec-

ears when I heard I was fighting Tyson. I'm not just fighting any Tom, Dick or Harry, I'm fighting the No 1." The death of James Murray

has not stopped Glasgow Council sponsoring Saturday's World Boxing Organisation light-flyweight title fight between Paul Weir and Baby Jake Matlala at the Kelvin Hall. The fatal injuries suffered by Murray and the riot that erupted after his light with Drew Docherty last month cast

a cloud over the sport. "In view of recent happenings, it is important that Glasgow is Bruno, who begins training portrayed as a major fight venue again. I'm confident that every-thing will go well," Tommy Gilmour, the promoter, said. "We have made no extra precautions because there will be no alcohol on sale, which has been our policy for a number of years."

Mixed record for the Devils ice hockey Jason Stone, with two minutes

Cardiff Devils seem to rely on "get out of jail" play to win their games. It worked once last weekend, but failed at the second attempt, writes Steve Pinder. The victims were Fife Flyers, who took a 2-1 lead in the first period. Cardiff netted four in the secand, but conceded three and the seriod ended 5-5.

Chris Palmer restored Fife's moved to Sheffield Steelers and ond, but conceded three and the

period ended 5-5. fead only for Doug McEwen to their 8-2 dismissal of Slough, equalise. Devils finally upped with Hand scoring once, took his the tempo and a slapshot by total to 100 points.

Stevens on line for Masters

Śnooker Maithew Stevens will attempt to keep the Benson and Hedges championship in Wales today. The 18-year-old Camarihen player yesterday carned a superh 6-5 comeback win over Scun-ment. thorpe's Matthew Couch in the thorpe's matures on course for semi-final to stay on course for world but on the provisional list Wembley debut next February. wemoney a fact and on a pos-Stevens missed out on a pos-Stevens missed out on a possible trip to the Benson and season, including reaching the

round to Liverpool's Rod Lawler.

His fellow countryman, Mark Williams, went on to defeat Lawler in the final to give the Welsh their first success in the six-year history of the tourna-Stevens is ranked 236 in the

Basketbali slible trip to the sliber of the Skoda Grand Prix Hedges Masters 12 months ago Hedges Masters 12 month.

When he lost in the penultimate in Sunderland last month.

American football AMICHICASI TOOLDAII
MRI Balfalo 23 Altanta 17; Detrot 27 Tampa Bay
24; Green Bay 35 Chrongo 28; Contornati 32 Houston 25; Sestite 47 Lackstonnide 30; New England
34 Marm. 17; New Orloads 17 Imbanapolis 14;
Cakland 17 NY Ganta 13; St Lous 26 Carolina
17. Mentesota 30 Anzona 24 rott; San Francisco 36 Delite 20; Aussiss City 22 San Dego 7;
Philadelphia 31 Denver 13.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE CENTRAL DIVISION

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE EASTERN DIVISION CENTRAL DIVISION

WESTERN DAYSOON

NEA: New York 120 Utah 110; Cleveland 81 San Antonio 84; LA Cippers 108 Deriver 103; Phoenix 112 Golden State 109.

BIOWISE
UROPEAN INDOOR TENN CHAMPIONSESP (beasy) Women's pains: Indend IM Wildrison and
M Johnstont of Scotland IS Gourley and J Woodley 25-17; England (I Royance and M Prote) by
Gardnesy IK Renoul and A Smoot 20-18; Wales
IC Morgan and J Develsy bit Jersy IS Neel and V
Steed) 21-13. Women's tripless: Scotland IK
Asoms, J Corten and J Lindred bit heland IM Soot,
P Smyth and O Basid) 21-16; Wales IV Movel,
A Dardon and Lindred bit heland IM Soot,
S Syvet and J Lowery 17-16; Guernsy IJ Bagin,
J Neolie and C Ingroulle) bit England (L Jerman,
J Thomas and E Bessell) 19-17.

Booking
was user-futweent chargeonism mag-laid: S Sonatong (thu, holder) bt Y Hosono Uppent to 1st.

CASTILE CUP (Float day of four) Johannesburg: Castrocal 431.6 77 for 1.0 Pothes 54 not; Border 180.6 324 (P Botha 94, P Kintten 85, S Jacobs 4-45). Transmed win by nithe wickerts. Blocambethetic Northern Transmed 259.6 368; Free Sure 29.6 389 for 61 Corgis 158, KVenter 95, F Sapherson 511, Pipe State win by four wickerts. ulcionta.

ENGLAND'S WORRDY TEAM (Second one-day International + lading, Gavenhall, lookayle J Smithes (Lapot, 8 Deniels (see-capt), J Better, J Ogmybethn, K Long, 5 Methalli, M Plemmer, H Smit (Md), M Reynard, D Stock, C Taylor.

ENJAMONO SCRIPTION (Sanday): 1 Rockel M (A Ledemann, Fri clear, 34.46sec: 2 Evenest Let's Go (M. Witchier, GB) clear, 35.13. 3 Junquille (H Van der Poll, North Cesor, 35.55. Salechade 7 Toga Sortas Edito (T. Stockdele, GB) 4 Janus, 43.25; 2.48bessel Deve (D. Legenest C. D.)

Marieanne Spacey, one of the England's most talented players has pulled out of Sunday's European Women's Champion-ship first leg match against Croetia at Charlton, Another withdrawal from the

England squad, now reduced to 22, was

SPORTING DIGEST Villa Aztecs' Sarah Day, who broke her collarbone in her team's 4-1 defeat by

collectione in her team's 4-1 defeat by Crydon on Sunday. ENGLAND Women's SQUAD (European Women's Championship v Croatia, Cherton, Sunday 19 November's P Cope Different Licrassest, Classoy (West Harri, D Banapton Croyden'), K Denis (Croyden), L Weren (Basston), C Harwood (Membiey), C Whaestley (Austral), K Barlos (Lespood, R Easton (Lespood, T Procor (Coyden), K Farty (Hermathy) F, Swedon, K Santh (Wembiey), K Weiser (Doncaster Beles), W Endy (Doncaster Beles), M Lorton (Wembiey), H Powel (Croyden), G Couthard (Doncaster Beles), M-A Cettleran (Gasswood/St Helents), G Bornzan (Doncaster Beles), N Mesters (Will Adocs), EMBLASI (European (Mesters), EMBLASI (European (Mesters), EMBLASI (EUROpean (Mesters), M Mesters (Will Adocs), EMBLASI (EUROpean (Mesters), EMBLASI (EUROpean (Mesters), M Mesters (Will Adocs), EMBLASI (EUROpean (Mesters), EMBLASI (EUROpean), EMBL SCOTLAND UNDER-21 TOM (Emopses Under-21 Champlanship Group Eight v San Marino, at Partick Thistie, tonight; Stoffe (Aberden), Meligram (Cetc.), Sheeth (Southernston), bis-

LEADENS SONY WORLD RANGINGS: 1 G Nor-man (Aus) 22,01pts average; 2 N Price (Zim) 16.00; 3 S Larger Scri 15.46; 4 E Es (SA) 15.27; 5 N Patol (GB) 14.54; 8 C Montgomerie (GB) 13.88; 7 C Pavin (US) 12.54; 8 F Couples (US) 11.88; 9 S Ellongton (Aus) 10.76; 10 M Casté (Uspan) 10.38.

Solhuli 2; Swindon 14 Peterborough 3; Telford 13 Brillingham 4, Cloud; Brillingham 5 Brackmall 14; Blackman 18 Pearsborough 1; Chaimston 6 Swindon 9; Guildiard 6 Durnifles B; Manchester 9 Telford 5; Murrayfield 10 Solfhuli 10; Patislay 6 Manchester

Rugby Union Mark Denney, the Bristol centre, leads the England Linder-21 team against tre-land at Northempton tomorrow. West Hartlepool's Immediate future may be bleak with relegation looming, but their long-term prospects appear sound with four of their players in this England side. ENELAND UNDER-21. TEAM (*) Irreband, Northempton, tenderand (*) Beasery (Montey: A Bright (May tenderook). ENGLAND Urestair -Northausten, tomorrowie P bissessy (Money,
A Blyth West Herspoot, M Darvey (Britist, capt),
J Ouesend (Leicestar), S Jones (West Hartlepoot,
S Bisse (Ancaster), A Goussiansi (Nespot), M Volland (Northarspoor), M McCarrity (Bett), P
Vickey (Goussian), G Marphy (Mest Hartlepool),
D Zaltzman (Sarcoord, J Hose (West Hartlepool),
B Key (Westriot), A Beanet (Orrell), Suplacesmenter F Wester (Sath), A Yang (Roselyn Parl),
E Pearce (Bett), P Harvey (Brund Univ College),
P Greening (Goussian), A Twodissen (Bett), A

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean will lead an impressive line-up for the Nu-traSweet Chellenge of Champions at London Arera, starting 14 December. th will be the Olympic chempons first appearance in a professional competition in this country. No fewer then eight Olympic champions and 23 world amateur title-holders will compete, including Robin Cousins, Katarina Witt, Krieti Yamaguchi, Victor Petrenko and Ekatarina Gordeeve and Sergel Ginkov.

BEISSON AND HEDGES CHAMPIONSHEP (Ed-taburgh, Benday) Quarter-Greats: M. Couch (Engl St G Door Hoo) 5-2; M. Stovens (Med) bt R. Leuter (Engl S-4; R Medikal Engl by A Cheema (Ind) 5-2; P. McPhillips (Soci) bt 'M Witson (Engl S-4. Semi-filmets: M. Stovens (Mel) bt M. Couch (Engl S-5.

NOTISHU STAND STAND TOURSMANDNI (Prince-ica, Lopus) Second day of \$2. Appyrra (won 2 lost () is Oginchia; (2-2). Oginchira (-1-1) bt Kesugalig (3-3). Delethoro (2-4) bt Hammosti-ma (3-1). Hammosia (1-3) bt Hambosti (1-1); Ashhumtia (1-1) bt Kinstana (0-2): Asanostio me (1-1); Assimovaje (1-1) bi Macho (1-1); Assimutajes (1-1) bi Macho (1-1); Assimutajes (1-1) bi Macho (1-1); Distronova (1-1) bi Majoruuri (1-1); Tomorobase (1-1) bi Majoruuri (1-1); Majoruuri (1-1); Majoruuri (1-1); Distronova (1-1); Majoruuri (1-1); Tochinovate (1-1) bi Marinovate (1-2); Tochinovate (1-1); bi Marinovate (1-2); Tochinovate (1-1); Majoruviri (1-1); Takarinoviri (1-1);

After reaching the semi-finels of the ATP Challenger at Paking last week, Tim Harman, the 21-year-old Bridsh No 2, has climbed from 115 to 111 in the world rankings, his highest-ever position. Greg Rusedski, the British No 1, has also moved up, from 41 to 38, although he reached 35 jast month. Clare Wood, the British No 1 from Brighton, has pulled out of the Texaco Women's Challenger, which begins in Edinburgh today, because of a shoulder injury. But British will still have 10 planner to the 32 arrest design include. der Injury. But Britsin will still have 10 players in the 32-strong draw including Karen Cross of Devon, Mandy Walnwright of Essex and Lancashire's Rachel Violet.

ADVANTA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS (Philadelphia) Singles final: S Gof (Ger) bt L McRei (US) 6-14-6-6-3. Dominion Strate L McRei (US) and H Subras (C Rep) bt M McGrath (US) and L Nelland (Let) 4-6-6-3-6-4.

LEADING ATP RANGUNGS: 1 P Sampras (US) 4: 811per; 2 A Agass (US) 4: 765; 3 T Musher (Au) 4: 474; 4 M Chang (US) 2: 980; 5 8 Beoler (Ge) 2: 7 J Courier (US) 2: 484; 8 T Enovas (Swe) 2: 348; 9 W Fermira (SA) 2: 049; 10 G horrisovas (Cros) 1,981.

LEADING ATP PRIZE-MONLEY WINDLERS: 1 P Sampras (US) 32: 647; 566 (£1: 708; 107); 2 T Musher (Au) 2: 462; 979; 3 A Agass (US) 2: 309; 071; 4 Y Moistow (Rus) 1: 335; 311; 5 B Backer (Ge) 1: 308; 109; 9 M Chang (US) 1: 230; 870; 7 G Narrisova (Cool) 1: 022; 562; 862; 8 W Fermira (SA) 1: 0221; 216; 9 J Courier (US) 871: 102; 10 R Nasposk (Neth) 925; 822.

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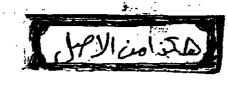
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WORLD TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP'S (Con-ton, Need Leading Smill places: Merz 1.5 Less-ing (63): 11r 49min 29ee; 2 B Beven (Aus) 1:49:24: 3 F Eigent (29e); 1:49:50: 4 P Petrot (rt) 1:50:02: 6 R Gorusier (Mex) 1:50:19; 8 1.204:58; 2 J Gallegier (Aus) 2:05:23; 3 J Leuther (US) 2:05:48; 4 S Neeten (Den) 2:05:56; 6 I Nouthon (Fr) 2:06:34; 6 N Badmenn (Swit) 2:06:49.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of times Diego Maradona has been booked in his eight matches for Boca Juniors since returning from a 15-month suspension. The latest yellow card came in Sunday's 2-0 win over Banfield and means a one-match ban.



page 26

Taylor resigns amid growing discontent

PHIL SHAW

Wolverhampton Wanderers will today begin wrestling with the dilemma of whether to go for an experienced old hand or an inspirational younger man to succeed Graham Taylor, who bowed to public hostility yesterday by resigning as manager of the First Division's big

Following Sunday's 0-0 draw with Charlton, which left the pre-

Taylor demonstration outside mances and position", after abled Wolves to have their best Birmingham, added to the pres-Molineux by several hundred which Taylor "tendered his res- season for over a decade is of sure on him, and Taylor admit-Molineux by several hundred fans, the 51-year-old former England manager spent the morning in talks with the Wolves chairman Jon-athan Hayward. Taylor was only 20 months into a three-year contract, and it is believed the pair discussed details

After four hours, both Taylor and the club secretary. Tom Finn, emerged to make terse statements. Finn, with masterful use of euphemism, explained that Hayward had "informed season promotion fay-ourites in Mr Taylor of the board's con-18th place and sparked an anti-cern over the team's perforignation in the best interests of e club".

Taylor, alluding to the abuse directed towards him by some supporters, then said: "This is sad because it has as much to do with matters off the pitch as those on it. Obviously the team have not been playing well. But, only 13 weeks into the season, we are still in all competitions. Our recent run of two defeats in 13 games is not as bad as our sterner critics claim.

"A return of confidence among players who last year en-

prime importance. If it does return, I see no reason why promotion cannot be gained this season. However, a team cannot gain confidence if the board and a section of fans do not have confidence in their manager."

This time last year, Wolves led the table, only to finish fourth and miss out in the playoffs. Despite an overall outlay of £7.5m on players, Taylor has been unable to take them higher than 12th this season. The relative success of two local rivals. West Bromwich Albion and

ted before what proved to be his swansong that there was an "undercurrent of feeling" against him.

His assistant, Bobby Downes, will take charge on a caretaker basis, but it is not a serious contender in the long term. Prior to appointing 'Taylor, Wolves' owner Sir Jack Hayward considered offering the job to Bryan Robson, and may now be tempted to take a chance on such a figure, perhaps even a

If so, the names of Steve

Bruce, Stuart Pearce and Chris Waddle are likely to figure strongly in his thoughts, al-though there may be an internal candidate. John de Wolf, the 32ear-old Dutch defender Taylor signed from Feyenoord last December, now rivals Steve Bull in the affections of supporters and was the only player applauded off the pitch on Sunday.

In his programme notes, Jonathan Hayward hinted at a wider role for de Wolf: "He may yet pull this team from the edge of the cliff by the scruff of its neck into the land of milk and honey.

tried and trusted figurehead. Ron Arkinson would be an obvious choice. Having served as an apprentice at Molineux, un-der Stan Cullis, Atkinson may find the attraction mutual. He also has the let-out in his current post at Coventry of having installed a ready-made successor in Gordon Strachan.

Meanwhile, among compromise candidates touted in the Midlands last night were Danny Wilson, the Barnslev player-manager, Huddersfield's Brian Horton and Millwall's Mick

Taylor's credibility gap, page 26

Collymore says he is sorry over outburst

Stan Collymore yesterday emerged from the headmaster's study to apologise for letting down the school by going into print about his unhappiness at

the Anfield academy. Collymore, at £8.5m the most expensive player in Britian, had a two-hour meeting with the Liverpool manager Roy Evans to discuss comments made to the magazine Four-Four-Two in which the player said he would rather quit football than spend two years in the reserves.

The outcome was statement read out by Evans, who was criticised by the striker in the article - that Collymore would like to take this opportunity to apologise to everybody con-nected with Liverpool Foot-ball Club, including the supporters, for what on reflection has proved to be a damaging article. The interview was given in good faith to a professional journalist but I feel the essence of our interview and my feelings towards Liverpool Football Club and the game in general did not come across in the manner in which I intend-

A chastened Collymore is now "determined to share in and be a part of the future of this great club" and is looking forward to sharing many great moments together."
Evans insisted that the mat-

ter would be dealt with internally and the player has not been transfer-listed. He refused to say if Collymore faced disciplinary action.

Paul Ince is to meet Massimo Moratti, the president of Internazionale, today and unless the former Manchester United midfielder spells out his commitment to the Italian giants he could be on his way to either Newcastle or Arsenal.

Tomas Brolin yesterday denied that his transfer to Leeds United from Parma was signed and scaled. Parma said on Sunday that officials from the two clubs met for seven hours on Friday and that an agreement was on the cards.

"I don't know why they said that," Brolin said. "First, the clubs are not yet in agreement. Secondly I have not yet fixed up with Leeds."

Bill Fotherby, Leeds' managing director, also refused to confirm that Brolin was on his way to Elland Road, "My report will go before the board of directors and we will discuss it, he said.

Bolton have dismissed reports that the striker John McGinlay is on the move to Celtic. "We've heard about interest in McGinlay, but it's pure speculation," Roy Mc-Farland, the Wanderers man-



Football Correspondent

The legal and media glare was lifted from Terry Venables yesterday - but it did not give the England coach any joy. The spotlight moved to his favourite son, Paul Gascoigne, who looks set to go into tomorrow's friendly international with Switzerland with the prospect of a police investigation hanging over him.

The procurator fiscal in Scotland has asked Strathclyde police to examine "certain incidents" in Rangers' league match with Aberdeen on Saturday. TV evidence appeared to show him head-butting the Aberdeen defender John Inglis in the chest and making contact with his elbow with Paul Bernard, who needed five stitches in a chin wound. Gascoigne was not booked, but Abbey. The knee was heavily the referees supervisor will be strapped and, although Gassupplying a report to the Scottish Football Association.

The police inquiry will not on how quickly he recovers. necessarily centre on Gascoigne. In a rugged encounter day that the pressure of being other players, from both sides, were also involved in contro-VCTSV

The police involvement comes just weeks after a threemonth jail sentence on Duncan Ferguson was confirmed by three appeal judges in Scotland. Ferguson was charged with assault after head-butting John McStav, then of Raith, while playing for Rangers.

Rejecting Ferguson's appeal. Scotland's most senior judge.

'A footballer who assaults another player on the football field is not entitled to expect leniency from a court just because the incident occurred in the course of

The news capped a bad day

Gascoigne admitted yester-Scotland's biggest celebrity was

I have never been in a pub. or for a night out, in Glasgow. The lads say 'Come out', but I say 'It will spoil it for you.' I have just been in the hotel for two months.

sports where "some measure of aggression" was part of the ne for player and spectator. But he went on: "When acts go well beyond what can be regarded as normal physical contact and an assault is committed, the court has a duty to condemn and punish such conduct. It has to be made clear both to players and to the public that such criminal acts cannot be tolerated on the field of play, any more than they can be tolerated in any place in this

a football match.

for Gascoigne, who injured his knee during training at Bisham coigne finished the session, his participation tomorrow depends

getting to him. "I feel everybody is watching me. I am in the papers every day. I do not know what they would write about if it was not for me.

I did not expect it to be like this." That the attention should come as a surprise to Gascoigne Lord Hope, the Lord Justice is a mystery. A brief word with General, said the courts had no McCoist or Ferguson – neither is a mystery. A brief word with



knee while training yesterday; (right) one of Saturday's controversial incidents

of whom are as high-profile as Gascoigne - would have told him what life as Rangers's most fa-

mous player would be like. Of Saturday's match, Gascoigne said: "I had a bad press but no-one mentioned that I was spat at and punched. I had to have the doctor look at my ribs and sides. I do not say anything about that. I just get on with it - it is not worth complaining. I get stick and I give it out.

"It was worse because I played up front, which I do not prefer. And I got fed up because the ball was not coming through - I should have gone looking for

While understandable. Gas- a 'rap' early on, and they slip out working out in the gym. or go-oigne's response is worrying. the game: Not Paul: He is men- ing on long runs. "It is better He will suffer similar provoca- tally and physically tough." tion during the European Championship next summer and, if he cannot cope with it, rejoined the England squad, to England may find themselves

playing with 10 men. "He is going to be a target, he always has been, it is part of the game," Venables said. "He has got to handle it. He has the experience to do so and, in the main, he handles it well. There is going to be the occasional

"He is not someone who can be kicked out of a game. Some talented players, you give them coigne spends most evenings

coigne's response is worrying. the game: Not Paul: He is men-Gascoigne had seen Ven-

ables on Sunday night, when he explain Saturday's events. Yesterday he added: "I am putting myself under too much pressure." Gascoigne said he felt unduly nervous before the game because he felt a burden of retheir recent defeats in Europe and the Scottish Coca-Cola

One by-product of his goldfish bowl existence is that Gasthan eating sandwiches or hav-ing a pint," he said. Ironically he thinks he may now be overdoing it. He said he was "shattered" on Saturday and will have to learn to pace his training better. Over-training may be a factor in his constant niggling in-

England's only other fitness sponsibility to Rangers after doubt is Gary Pallister, who did not train yesterday after suffering a migraine at the weekend. Rob Jones is already out, with a viral infection, but Gary Neville was expected to return



THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

io.2831. Tuesday 14 Novemb CROSS

Bible to supply as a small cu-

Unmoving state i.e. having nasty spasm within (7) 9 Keeping hands off thrice in true story? (3-12) 10 Cat in leap lacking power (5) 11 You could barely call this a place of entertainment (5-4)

It equips vessel in spell on Yorkshire river (9) Not right to guarantee result Show anger about unknown

16 Actors one has to punish and rebuke severely (9)
Measure support given to
poor user of hole in parapet

Throwing in towel one shows a bit of wisdom? (5)

22 Bats can get into this insect

house? (7,8)

23 Edward commonly carries a weapon in poor district? DA abandons 10 command- 8 ments for pastoral writing

Where one sleeps badly having to play truant (4.3) Countries with great poten

nal for embarrassing slipups? (6,9) Working with gravity in lightheartedness to achieve long life (9) Difficult time when a num-

ber will be in North of Eng-land river (5)



Autobank code exhausted sweetheart? (3-2) Second mountainous attack imits Henry's indecisiveness

Honour good French female coming up with the male she knows? (7)

13 Numberless Europeans still commoners? (9)
14 Independent thought? (9)

15 Plant contains a centilitre of sweet stuff (7) Two hospital departments joined European agreement

Article carried by animal coming up; it's a bit leggy (5) Cheer from some late-com-

England in disorder as first Test approaches

Cricket

MARTIN JOHNSON reports from Johannesburg

Johannesburg lies 6,000 feet above sea level, although whether the air in this city is any thinner than England's prospects of making a winning start to the Test series in neighbouring Pretoria on Thursday is a moot point.

After leaving the gas mark nine temperatures of Kimberley, it is no longer possible to boil a kettle on the pavement, but the top of the chairman's head would be a passable alternative. Raymond Illingworth is not a happy man, and spent most of last night saying so at a team meeting in the England hotel.

If a Test series equates to a horse race, England normally have only one leg inside their jodhpurs by the time the op-position is cantering towards the home stretch, and no one knows better than their captain how crucial it is to get away to a decent start.

Michael Atherton has previously been on four overseas tours with England, (Australia 1990/91 and 1994/95, India 1992. West Indies 1993) and on no occasion has he arrived at the venue for the third Test match with the scoreline reading anything other than 0-2.

In fact, when he made his de-

but against Australia in 1989, he

was at Trent Bridge, when another current player making his debut was singled out for spe-cial praise by Ted Dexter after taking 1 for 166. Malcolm Devon, as he was known then, also got things back to front in Kimberley, and entertaining though his 48 not out might have been,

his bowling lacks any spark.

Apart from Angus Fraser's impressive performance in South Africa A's second innings, it was pitiful to see - despite the extreme heat - a so-called international attack unable to bowl to its field, and keep the ball consistently on one side of the wicket.

On good batting pitches, this is as essential as top-order batsmen making sure they cash in after getting a start. England's, to a man, failed to do so, and the batting and bowling in Kimberley mirrored the lack of discipline which has betrayed so many recent England sides. When the going gets tough, England's toughest head for the

It is enough to make you wonder whether there is any point in England going on tour with batting and bowling coach-es. John Edrich virtually had to be gelignited from the crease when he was playing Test cricket, yet during a moment of crisis last Saturday, Graham Thorpe's stumping gave the impression that he had not so

losing 0-3 after four Tests. That Edrich, as studying charging rhi-was at Trent Bridge, when an-nos at a South African game

If it seems a little premature to start fretting before a single Test match delivery has been purveyed, it is because we have seen this script all too often before. If England require an incentive to get their act together. they need only look at the itinerary and try to imagine how much fun the match against Combined Universities at Pietermaritzburg is going to be if they have made a hash of the first three Tests.

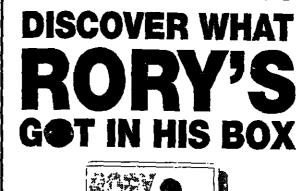
Meantime, talking of fun, England are billeted in several square miles of armed fortress known as Sandton City. Complete with 24-hour armed security patrols, closed circuit TV, searchlights, intercoms, and everything bar moat and portcullis, it is a bit like some-

thing out of Mad Max. This place has sprung up be-cause there is nothing more mad than venturing into Johannesburg itself, especially after dark, and entire business complexes are being moved out to Sandton. There, inside one of the hotels, you only have to make a cup of tea in your room to re-mind yourself why this country is in such a state. Thoughtfully provided, possibly as a hangover from the old days to make the drink more socially acceptable. are sachets of something called "beverage whiteners."

More cricket, page 27

came into the side with England much been paying attention to Albans Road, Watford and Hollinwood Avenue, Oldham Tuesday 14 November 1945

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